INDEX

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PROCEEDINGS

VOL. III.

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15. M. R. Ry. R. Krishna Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Chief Secretary to Government.*]
16. M. R. Ry. N. Kumaran Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Nominated.*]
17. M. R. Ry. T. Kumara Pillai Avargal. [*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod* (General Rural).]
18. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai, M. A., B. SC., PH. D. [*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries.*]
19. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. [*Muvattupuzha* (General Rural).]
20. M. R. Ry. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai Avargal. [*Chirayinkil* (General Rural).]
21. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli. [*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad* (General Rural).]

22. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan, B. A., M. B. C. M., M. R. C. S., M. R. C. P., D. P. H. [*Darbar Physician.*]
23. M. R. Ry. T. Lakshmana Pillai Avargal, B. A. [*Nominated.*]
24. Mr. John Mackie. [*Planters.*]
25. M. R. Ry. M. R. Madhava Variar Avargal, B. A., LL. B. [*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta* (General Rural).]
26. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai, B. A. [*Commerce and Industries* (North).]
27. M. R. Ry. P. K. Narayana Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Ambalapuzha* (General Rural).]
28. M. R. Ry. K. V. Natesa Aiyar Avargal B. A., B. E. [*Chief Engineer.*]
29. Mr. J. John Nidiry, B. A., B. L. [*Changanachery* cum *Minachil* (General Rural).]
30. M. R. Ry. M. N. Pillai Avargal, L. M. & S. (Homeo.) [*Trivandrum* (General Urban).]
31. M. R. Ry. N. Padmanabha Pillai Avargal, BAR-AT-LAW [*Karunagapalli* (General Rural).]
32. Mr. Joseph Panjikaran, B. A., B. L. [*Shertallai* (General Rural).]
33. M. R. Ry. S. Paramesvara Aiyar Avargal, M. A., B. L. [*Secretary to Government* (**Secretary to the Legislative Council**).]
34. M. R. Ry. Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai Avargal B. A., B. L. [*Tiruvalla* (General Rural).]
35. M. R. Ry. G. Paramesvaran Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Neyyattinkara* (General Rural).]
36. M. R. Ry. P. Paramesvaran Avargal. [*Nominated.*]
37. Mr. W. H. Pitt. [*Commissioner of Police.*]
38. M. R. Ry. K. C. Raja Raja Varma Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Edavagai* (Edavagai and Political Pensioners).]
39. M. R. Ry. N Ramakrishna Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur* (General Rural).]
40. M. R. Ry. C. Ramankunju Avargal. [*Nominated.*]
41. M. R. Ry. K. P. Raman Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Quilon* (General Rural).]
42. M. R. Ry. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar Avargal, B A., [*Secretary to Government.*]
43. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Avargal, M. A. [*Professor of History and Economics, H. H. the Maha Raja's College.*]
44. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson [*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner.*]

45. M. R. Ry. V. Subba Aiyar Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil.*]

46. M. R. Ry. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar Avargal, B. A. [*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah* (General Rural).]

47. Mr. K. Dominic Tomman. [*Peermade* cum *Devicolam.*]

48. Mr. A. J. Van Ross. [*Excise Commissioner.*]

49. M. R. Ry. Trivikramar Vasudevar Avargal. [*Jenmies.*]

50. M. R. Ry. T. K. Velu Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L. [*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad* (General Rural).]

Co-opted Members.

1. M. R. Ry. M. Govindan Avargal, B. A., B. L., [*Second Judge, Trivandrum.*] (For the purposes of the Travancore Ezhava Bill.)

2. M. R. Ry. M. Subrahmanya Pillai Avargal. (For the purposes of the Nanjanad Vellala Bill).

3. M. R. Ry. M. Udaya Varma Raja Avargal, B. A. (For the purposes of the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill.)

4. M. R. Ry. A. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran Avargal (For the purposes of the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill.)

TRAVANCORE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PROCEEDINGS

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

VOLUME III.

SECOND SESSION, 1098.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, 30th July, 1923.

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven Thirty-three of the Clock with the President (DEWAN BAHADUR T. RAGHAVIAH PANTULU GARU, B. A.) in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were then sworn in under Rule 20 of the Legislative Council Electoral Rules:

1. M. R. Ry. R. Krishna Pillai Avargal, B. A., B. L., (*Chief Secretary to Government*);
2. ,, T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar Avargal, B. A., (*Secretary to Government*); and
3. ,, A. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran Avargal, (*Co-opted for the purposes of the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill*).

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Standards for Promotions in the Excise Department.

1. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner has recorded his opinion that seniority in service and qualifications need not be considered as standards of test for promotions in the Excise Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Van Ross has stated that seniority or educational qualifications should not be the sole criterion for promotion in the executive line of the Excise Department.

Production of Local Salt.

2. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many maunds of salt are required for consumption in the State for one year;

(*b*) how many maunds of salt were manufactured in 1095, 1096 and 1097 in each of the factories of the State;

(*c*) how many maunds of salt were sold from each of the factories in these years; and

(*d*) what surplus quantity of salt was left in each of the factories?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) 10,50,000 maunds roughly;

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) A statement* containing the information is laid on the table.

Salt in the Tamaracolam Factories.

3. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) How many maunds of salt were manufactured in the Tamaracolam factories in the years 1095, 1096 and 1097?

(*b*) How many maunds of salt were sold out of the same during each year?

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* *Vide* Appendix I—page 9.

(c) What was the quantity of salt left unsold in the Tamaracolam factories out of the quantity stored therein by the producers of salt till the 14th Vrischikam, 1098 ?

(d) Did the salt-producers concerned inform the Excise Commissioner and the Government and give notice to them that they should be paid the *kudivila* for the surplus salt left unsold ?

(e) Are the Government aware of the circumstances under which the producers of salt are put to loss on account of the non-payment of *kudivila* in time for the salt stored by them in large quantities? If so, will the Government be pleased to state them ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (a) & (b) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 2 (b) & (c).

(c) A statement† giving the required information is laid on the table.

(d) It is reported that some of the licensees made such a request in 1097. But under clause 12 of rule (3) of the Salt Rules, *kudivaram* should be paid to the licensees only after the removal of the salt from the factory.

(e) The member is referred to the answer to part (d) of the question.

Salt manufactured at Tamaracolam.

4. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikom* cum *Ettumanur*):

(a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points:

(1) the quantity of salt manufactured in each of the *alloms* of Tamaracolam during 1096 and 1097, and also in the *Purattasi Pani* of 1098 ;

(2) the quantity transported in each of these years from those *alloms* to other parts of Travancore for consumption ; and

(3) the total quantity of salt left in the *alloms* before the 14th Vrischikam, 1098 ?

(b) Was any salt left in the pans without being stored on the platforms in any of the *alloms* at the time of the cyclone in Vrischikam last ? If so, in whose *alloms* was the salt left in the pans ? Why was not storage enforced ?

(c) Is any Government officer responsible for the loss of salt in the cyclone ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) (1), (2) & (3) A statement‡ containing the information is laid on the table.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the negative.

Kudivaram for Salt.

5. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any

† *Vide* Appendix II—page 10. ‡ *Vide* Appendix III—page 11.

[MR. T. Kumara Pillai.]

period is fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected from the salt pans by the producers?

(*b*) If there is any such period, will the Government be pleased to say how it is that, contrary to the rule, some who have collected salt very early do not get their *kudivaram*, while others who have collected it only later get it in a shorter time?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the fact that this policy causes loss to the salt-producers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No definite period has been fixed during which salt should not be used after it has been collected. Salt is generally permitted to be issued only after it has become well dried in the drying ground. This period of dryage would vary according to the weather and the quality of the salt manufactured. Ordinarily about three months is the period required for dryage.

(*b*) Government have received no complaints of the sort referred to.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*), this part of the question does not call for an answer.

Salt destroyed by Floods.

6. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the estimate that three lakhs of maunds of salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories was destroyed by the floods of Vrischikam, 1098, is accurate?

(*b*) How was the estimate of the quantity of salt destroyed by the floods in the Tamaracolam factories arrived at?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the cyclone alone was responsible for the destruction of the salt stored up in the Tamaracolam factories, consequent upon the floods there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The estimate is fairly accurate.

(*b*) The estimate was arrived at by deducting, from the stored up and estimated quantities of salt in the factories before the 14th Vrischikam, 1098, the quantity that was left in the factories after the floods.

(*b*) The cyclone alone is reported to be responsible for the loss.

Weighment of Salt in Factories.

7. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is usual now to weigh and take charge of the salt collected by the producers in the salt factories, and, if not, whether there was such a practice before;

(*b*) when it was discontinued; and

(*c*) what the reasons were for the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Since the introduction of the new Salt Rules from the 1st Kumbham, 1095, salt is weighed and then stored on the storage platforms. Prior to the above date, there was no weighment before storage.

(*b*) and (*c*) No answer is called for, in view of the answer to part (*a*).

Jenmi-Kudiyan Bill.

8. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state how long it will take them to publish in the Gazette the Jenmi and Kudiyan Draft Bill, referred to in their answer to interpellation No. 137, asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 10th Vrischikam, 1098?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The bill is still under the consideration of Government.

Dietary in the Hospital for Lepers.

9. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the patients in the hospital for lepers have sent a petition to Government stating that their dietary has been changed and reduced?

(*b*) If so, what action has been taken thereon?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount which used to be spent on account of diet in the hospital for lepers during the three years preceding the appointment of Dr. Lakshmanan as Darbar Physician and the amount spent subsequently till the end of 1097?

(*d*) Are the lepers given tapioca either as a substitute for rice, or for securing economy in its consumption?

(*e*) Has the Lepers Regulation made provision for a board of visitors for the inspection of the hospital for lepers? Has such a board been appointed? If not, will a board be appointed?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. Two petitions without signatures were received in the beginning of Kumbham, 1098.

(*b*) The petitions were sent to the Darbar Physician who made a personal and full investigation of them and found that they were groundless.

(*c*) The amounts spent on account of diet in the hospital for lepers during the past six years are shown below:—

Year.	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097
Amount. Rs.	11,346	11,617	13,019	16,652	16,366	13,776

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The member is referred to section 5 of Regulation III of 1077 and the rules issued thereunder.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

Male Doctor in the Victoria Hospital, Quilon.

10. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact that, with a view to the administration of the Quilon Victoria Hospital for Women being solely conducted by women, that institution had been separated from the Quilon District Hospital, even at the time when Dr. Lakshmanan was in charge of the latter institution?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the fact that at present a young man has been appointed as Second Assistant in the Victoria Hospital, Quilon?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the fact that the appointment of a young man in the Victoria Hospital, Quilon, which is intended for women and administered by women, will cause much inconvenience to women?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to immediately cancel this appointment and entertain a lady doctor?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) This institution has not been constituted as a *gosha* hospital, but in view of the fact that it is an institution for women and children, women are appointed as members of the staff as far as possible.

(*b*) Yes. On account of the paucity of qualified women.

(*c*) No complaint on this score has been received.

(*d*) The male member of the staff will be replaced by a woman when a qualified woman becomes available.

Facilities for Specialists in the Medical Department.

11. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether facilities have been given for the treatment of diseases to those who have come out as "specialists" in the Medical Department?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Officers of the Department who have taken special courses in particular branches of medicine or surgery cannot be called "specialists" in those branches, in the sense in which that word is understood in the medical profession. Nor would it be possible always or desirable to confine the work of such officers to those particular branches of medicine or surgery in which they have taken a special course. Government have been giving all possible facilities to their officers in the discharge of their duties.

Out-patient Department, General Hospital.

12. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names, examination qualifications and length of service of the doctors who prescribed medicines in the out-patient department during

the time when Dr. K. Raman Tampi was in charge of the General Hospital, and also of those who do that work there now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information * required is laid on the table.

Training of Nurses.

13. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*); (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of institutions in the Medical Department for the training of nurses?

(*b*) How many were trained as nurses during the last five years?

(*c*) How many of them have been appointed as nurses in hospitals?

(*d*) How many are without employment?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*); (*a*) Nurses receive their training in the General Hospital and the Women and Children's Hospital. Four Indian Nursing Sisters were trained in the District Hospital, Kottayam, also, before Nursing Classes were opened in Trivandrum.

(*b*) Seventeen nurses have been trained during the last five years.

(*c*) Four Indian Nursing Sisters have been appointed to the Kottayam District Hospital, while the remaining thirteen have been posted to the General Hospital.

(*d*) None.

Appointment of Nurses.

14. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of hospitals where nurses have not been appointed?

(*b*) Who do the work of nurses in these hospitals at present?

(*c*) Are the menial servants made to do the work of nurses in hospitals where there are no nurses? If so, are Government aware of the fact that this practice is highly dangerous to the patients?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate appointing nurses in all the hospitals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Nurses have not been appointed in 22 hospitals.

(*b*) Midwives, who are also trained in sick nursing, assisted by warders.

(*c*) Menials are not permitted to do nursing in any hospital.

(*d*) Government have sanctioned the training of more nurses for being posted to hospitals.

Medicines out of stock and Substitutes.

15. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has issued circulars to the effect that chits containing the names

* *Vide* Appendix IV—page 12.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

of medicines that are out of stock in the hospitals should not be given to patients in order to enable them to purchase the same from shops, that, in the place of such medicines, substitutes should be mixed up, and that the patients should not be informed of the fact that any medicine is out of stock in the hospitals?

(b) Are there "substitutes" even for important medicines?

(c) Are the available medicines adequately supplied to the hospitals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) No circular of the kind referred to has been issued.

(b) The member is referred to the Darbar Physician's circular No. 15, dated the 2nd December, 1921, a copy* of which is laid on the table.

(c) Drugs ordinarily required are adequately supplied.

Stock of Medicines in Hospitals.

16. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has issued a circular to the effect that medical officers should not prescribe medicines that are out of stock and direct patients to purchase them from outside?

(b) Is it a fact that most drugs of everyday use have run short in many of the hospitals of the State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 15, put by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

(b) Government have received no complaints to that effect.

Purchase of Opium and Ganja.

17. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of opium and ganja which the Excise Department purchased from the British stores at Santravur during 1096 and 1097, and the quantity that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In 1096, 5,000 seers and in 1097, 3,500 seers of ganja and no opium were purchased from the storehouse at Santravur.

The opium and ganja that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097, were 2481 seers 15·69 tolas and 3,460 seers 22·125 tolas respectively.

Devicolam Division and Plague.

18. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state from what time the Devicolam Division has been kept under observation for purposes of the plague?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to page 382, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 2nd January, 1923, and to page 407, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 23rd January, 1923.

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* *Vide* Appendix V—page 11.

Appendix I.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 2.**

Statement showing the Production and Sale of Salt during the years 1095 to 1097.

Serial No.	Name of factory.	Quantity manufactured in maunds.			Quantity sold in maunds.			Balance left in the factory at the end of the year in maunds.		
		1095	1096	1097	1095	1096	1097	1095	1096	1097
1	Tamaracolam old ...	35,083	66,040	29,426	...	35,968	2,050	27,251	64,962	30.638
2	Old *allom* Extension of Dr. Sankaramurti Pillai ...	930	5,018	2,410	...	1,868	3,502	1,280	5,090	3,908
3	Extension No. I. ..	1,10,868	1,52,716	1,28,432	1,49,264	56,166	1,07,488	11,420	1,09,236	70,788
4	Extension No. II ..	32,520	77,100	59,856	20,160	29,634	50,408	13,394	62,660	72,186
5	Puttallom ...	47,105	54,000	53,048	54,778	22,720	25,016	14,253	54,000	82,436
6	Srimulagopalanathan *allom* ...	33,949	1,02,512	85,109	58,616	65,778	77,703	19,587	72,408	64,896
7	Srimulakrishnamani *allom* ...	...	10,225	25,875	...	...	...	...	10,225	36,100
8	Srisankara *allom* ...	...	4,000	16.200	...	...	...	...	4,000	20.200
9	Rajakkamangalam ...	14,607	866	11,378	8,230	3,640	7,808	9,773	6,745	9.520
10	Colachel ...	...	...	36	23,360	...	40	120	120	120
11	Srichitra Pon factory ...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	12
	Total	2,75,062	4,72,477	4,11,782	3,14,408	2,15,774	2,74,015	97,078	3,89,446	3,90,804

Appendix II.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 3.**

Statement showing the quantity of salt left unsold till the 14th Vrischikam, 1098.

No.	Name of factory.	Quantity left unsold.
		Mds.
1	Tamaracolam old *allom* ...	59,300
2	Old *allom* Extension of Dr. Sankaramurti Pillai ...	3,000
3	Extension No. I ...	75,700
4	Extension No. II ...	91,000
5	Puttallom ...	69,600
6	Srimulagopalanathan *allom* ...	1,00,555
7	Srimulakrishnamani *allom* ...	57,200
8	Srisankara *allom* ...	25,000
	Total	4,81,355

Appendix III.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 4.**

Statement showing the manufacture of salt in and the transport of salt from Tamaracolam *alloms* during the years 1096 to 1098.

Serial No.	Names of *alloms*.	Quantity manufactured.			Quantity transported to other parts of Travancore.			Quantity of Salt left in the *alloms* on the 14th Vrischikam 1098.
		1096.	1097	In the *Purattasi Pani* of 1098.	1096	1097	1098	
		Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
1	Tamaracolam old *allom* ...	66,040	29,426	13,556	...	66,994	...	59,300
2	Old *allom* extension of Dr. Sankaramurti Pillai ...	5,018	2,410	1,900	...	2,000	...	3,000
3	Tamaracolam Extension No. I. ...	1,52,716	1,28,432	55,688	...	62,304	...	75,700
4	Do. No. II. ...	77,100	59,856	35,000	...	...	...	91,000
5	Srimulagopalanathan *allom* ...	1,02,512	85,109	38,835	...	16,090	...	1,00,555
6	Srimulakrishnamani Do. ...	10,225	25,875	21,100	...	...	...	57,200
7	Tamaracolam *Puttallom* ...	54,000	53,048	20,000	...	...	...	69,600
8	Srisankara *allom* ...	4,000	16,200	18,224	...	...	...	25,000
	Total.........	4,71,611	4,00,356	2,04,303	...	1,47,388	...	4,81,355

Appendix IV.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 12.**

List of Medical Officers who prescribed medicines in the Out-patient Department of the General Hospital during 1096, 1097 and 1098 when Dr. K. Raman Tampi was in charge and present arrangements.

Year.	Name.	Qualification.	Service, years.	Name.	Qualification.	Service, years.
	MALE SIDE.			FEMALE SIDE.		
1096	Dr. A. T. Thomas ...	L. M. & S.	25	Dr. K. Kesava Pillai ...	M. B., B. S.	6
"	" A. A. Moreira ...	Do.	25	Miss I. Gomez ...	Do.	Volun.
"	" K. Kesava Pillai ...	M. B., B. S.	6	Dr. M Koshi ...	L. M. & S.	2
1097	" John Hilkiah ...	M. B., C. M.	9	" K. Kesava Pillai ..	M. B., B. S.	6
"	" A. A. Moreira ...	L. M. & S.	25	" C. T. Kuruvila ...	L. M. & S.	1
"	" K. Kuruvila ...	Do.	11	" A. M. Matthew ...	B. A., M. B. C. M.	13
"	" Damodaran Pillai ...	L. M. P.	3	" M. Koshi ...	L. M. & S.	2
1098 (First half)	" S. Sivatanu Pillai ...	M. B. B. S.	5	" K. Kesava Pillai ...	M. B., B. S.	6
"	" K. Kesava Pillai ...	Do.	6	" K. Raman Tampi ...	B. A., M. D.	15
"	" K. Raman Tampi ...	B. A., M. D.	15	" One volunteer ...	M. B., B. S.	
"	One volunteer ...	M. B. B. S.		Do.		
	One Sub-Assistant Surgeon volunteer ...			One Sub-Assistant Surgeon volunteer ...		
1098 (Second half)	Dr. S. T. Ponnuswami Pillai...	L. M. & S.	25			
				" K. Kesava Pillai ..	M. B., B. S.	6
"	" S. Sivatanu Pillai ...	M. B. B. S.	6	" S. John ...	L. M & S.	6
"	" K. P. Raman Pillai ...	M. B., F. R. C. S. (Edin.) for Ear, Nose and Throat Departments (assisted by Sub-Assistant Surgeons and graduate volunteers when scarcity of hands requires such help.)	9			

The turns in the male and female sides are taken according to requirements and convenience.

Appendix V.

Vide Answer to Question No. 15.

No. 45.

Darbar Physician's Office,
Trivandrum, 2nd December, 1921.

CIRCULAR.

Medical Officers are directed to exercise great care in the issue and prescription of drugs.

The supply of medicines given for the year 1097 is ample for 12 months and ought to be sufficient to last till the end of the third month in 1098.

The stock keys should, on no account, be passed on to compounders or others, but, each morning, the issues are to be made by the Medical Officer according to the needs of each day, or issues may be made in the evening after the day's work, according to the needs of the following day.

The stock mixtures in common use ought to be prepared daily according to the formulae given and only these stock mixtures should be prescribed as a general rule, special prescriptions being written and dispensed only in exceptional cases. A book may be opened and in it entered against each day the quantity of the various stock mixtures made up.

No prescription ticket is to be lost or destroyed under any circumstances. Tickets may be destroyed only after obtaining the sanction of the Darbar Physican.

Some drugs like Santonine and Extract Ergot Liquid., etc., are very expensive and these ought to be issued and dispensed under the strictest supervision. It is reported that in some places, when the Medical Officers prescribe Santonine, the compounder pockets Santonine and deals cut some other white powder to the ignorant patients. This and similar malpractices on the part of some of the compounders ought to be put a stop to with a strong hand, and there should not be even a whisper of evil report from the public against them. Medical Officers should, on no account, hesitate to report immediately any dishonesty, indifference or disobedience on the part of compounders.

Patients in some hospitals are directed to go and buy certain drugs from outside to make up their prescription, thus giving the patient the idea that the Hospital is short of medicine when it is not. Medical Officers have a very wide range of drugs available for selection, so that, if one is not available, another can be readily substituted, provided that the Medical Officer's knowledge of Materia Medica and Therapeutics is fair.

Some mixtures are often indiscriminately used, as for example diaphoretic mixture. This mixture is very frequently prescribed for most cases of fever. If the Medical Officer will take the trouble to investigate the cause and attempt to make a correct diagnosis, he will

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find fewer occasions for such symptomatic treatment by a costly mixture.

The habit of prescribing costly drugs for improving flavour or taste of mixtures, *e. g.*, Glycerine, so liberally prescribed by some, should be avoided.

Some tinctures supplied this year are in a concentrated form and require great care both in prescribing and in dispensing.

As a rule, medicines for more than two, or, at the most three, days should not be given to patients and the habit of prescribing concentrated mixtures to last for many days ought to be given up.

Compounders shall not be held responsible for the maintenance of records or correspondence. They shall have nothing to do with these. Circular No. 42 dated 27-11-1920 where compounders are allowed to help in correspondence means that their services may be utilised for copying correspondence.

PETER N. LAKSHMANAN,
Darbar Physician.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): As regards the answer* to question No. 1 of Mr. S. Adam Sait *re.* Examination of traders' accounts, I wish to know what are the qualifications of the Income-tax Auditor.

PRESIDENT: Under the rules, only the member who has sent in a question can ask supplemental questions to that question.

REGULATIONS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHA RAJA.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*): I beg to announce that the following Regulations have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the dates noted against them:—

(1) The Destruction of Records Regulation, II of 1098. 15th June 1923.

(2) The Tolls Recovery Regulation Amendment Regulation, III of 1098. 15th June 1923.

MEMBERS ON THE P. W. D. WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT: The following gentlemen were elected on the 21st April, 1923, by the non-official members of the Legislative Council, as members of the P. W. D. Workshops Committee:

Mr. A. Hoogewerf (*Nominated*).
Mr. Paul. V. Daniel (*Agastisvaram*).
M. R. Ry. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai Avargal (*Chirayinkil*).
" " " M. N. Pillai Avargal (*Trivandrum*).

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* Not included here as the member was absent at question-time.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, II of 1097.

Item.	Amount Rs.	Remarks.
Demand III. Salt.	273	On account of the entertainment of one second grade Sub-Inspector, one fourth grade Petty Officer and two fifth grade peons for the Variyur *allom*.
Demand IX. General Administration.	3,000	For meeting the expenditure on account of the travelling allowance of the members of the Legislative Council.
Demand XVII. Medical and Sanitary.	1,264	For the pay of four Sub-Assistant Surgeons entertained for plague duty.
Do. Do.	500	For meeting the additional expenditure incurred on account of the frontier plague stations.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Demand XVI—Industries.

Mr. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,300 under Demand XVI, Industries. The Council has already sanctioned this amount under Demand XX. The purport of my present demand is that it should be transferred from Demand XX to XVI. This is necessitated on account of the transfer of boiler inspection to the Industries Department.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House sanctions this supplementary demand?

The grant was made.

Demand XIX—Stationery and Printing.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 1,60,000 under Stationery and Printing, for payment to the stationery contractors. The balance due to the contractors at the close of 1097 was Rs. 3,04,806. The value of the articles purchased up to the 31st Mithunam 1098 was Rs. 1,03,072. The total amount due to them comes

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to Rs. 4,07,878. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 2,54,464 has already been paid from the allotment provided in this year's budget. The balance is Rs. 1,53,394. That is, the balance due up to the end of Mithunam 1098. The value of the articles that will be supplied in Karkadakam 1098 is estimated at Rs. 13,000. Thus, the total amount that will be due to the Company towards the close of the year will be about Rs. 1,66,394 or Rs. 1,67,000 in round numbers. Out of this, it is proposed to pay them Rs. 1,60,000, so that from the beginning of the next year we shall be practically current. Hence the demand.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions this demand.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No. The Council would like to know whether Government would continue the existing contract system or would try to buy direct from the manufacturers themselves. During the discussion of the last budget—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, I think it hardly arises here in connection with the supplementary grant.

MR K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Unless some assurance is given, I oppose the demand.

PRESIDENT: We have already made arrangements not to buy from these contractors only. For some time past we have been buying from the cheapest market.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are legally bound to pay the amount for the articles already supplied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I also oppose the demand, but on a different ground. I have not been given a copy of the demand. It is not before my seat. Even after coming to the House I see that the copy is not supplied to me.

PRESIDENT: The Legislative Council Secretary says that he has placed a copy of it on the table. You may have another copy now.

Has any other gentleman anything to say with regard to the supplementary demand? Seeing that there is some opposition, I shall put the motion to vote.

The demand was put and carried.

The grant was made.

PRESIDENT: Under Rule 47 of the Legislative Council Rules, the debate on the budget for 1099, which will now be presented by the Financial Secretary, will begin with a general discussion and be followed by the voting of demands for grants. The 2nd and the 3rd of August will be devoted to the general discussion of the budget. The discussion of the demands and the voting on them will take place from the 6th to the 10th August and on the 13th and the 14th August. The maximum period admissible under Rule 49 (1) for dealing with the demands will thus be seen to have been allotted for the purpose. The demands will

be discussed in the order in which they have been printed in the statement which has been furnished to you. Three days out of the seven may be taken up by Land Revenue, Education and Public Works, each of these demands being given not more than one day. The remaining demands will have to be dealt with before the close of the seventh day, and not more than half a day can be allotted to any one demand. At the end of the time allotted for the discussion of each demand, all pending motions in respect of that demand will automatically lapse; and at 5 o'clock on the evening of the last of the allotted days, every question necessary for the disposal of all the outstanding matters in connection with the demands for grants will be put under Rule 49 (3).

Each member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed during the general discussion stage not more than twenty minutes. When voting on the demands for grants, every mover and the official member who has the right of reply will be allowed ten minutes each and the other members five minutes each.

Standing order No. 56 requires notice of every motion for the reduction or omission of a grant to be given to the Secretary to the Council five clear days before the day on which the demand comes up for consideration. I would, in this connection, repeat the request I made to the non-official members last year to kindly specify the item in respect of which they make a motion, quote the page of the *Preliminary Budget* in which that item is found, and also indicate in a general manner the grounds on which they base their proposal for reduction or omission. So far, as regards the budget for 1099.

With a view to expedite the publication of the Council Proceedings, some arrangements have been made provisionally. Members are no doubt aware that printed copies of the proceedings of one meeting are ready only just before the next meeting comes round; but they can hardly realise that even this result is now achieved only by a considerable effort on the part of the Legislative Section and the Press staff. Provisionally, the number of shorthand reporters has been raised from four to six, a full-time Malayalam shorthand reporter has been appointed, and special arrangements have been made to edit the speeches and prepare the copies for the Press. It is hoped that it will be possible to send the copies of speeches to the Press on the morning of the next day after each meeting and to place in the hands of members a preliminary edition of them on the day following. Members will be given four days' time to revise their speeches. If no corrections are received within the above period, the proceedings will be finally struck off. I trust that the members would kindly co-operate with the Secretary in this matter.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

MR K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary*): Sir, I rise to present the Financial Statement for 1099. I would in the first place refer to the new procedure in the preparation of the budget that was adopted

[Mr. K. George.]

this year. As the members are aware, the budget estimates this year had to be examined by the Standing Finance Committee of the Council before they could be embodied in the *Preliminary Budget.* In order to enable the Finance Committee to scrutinise the estimates under votable heads fully and effectively, Government had them prepared in two parts. The first part contained the estimates of revenue and of all items of ordinary expenditure essential for the carrying on of the administration according to existing sanctions in all their details. In other words, Part I consisted of a copy of the printed budget with the estimated figures under all the headings. All new schemes and items of expenditure requiring new sanctions were embodied in Part II. The necessity, importance and urgency of the schemes were fully explained, and, as far as possible, they were worked out in detail, showing their estimated cost, both initial and recurring. Both the parts of the budget were carefully and exhaustively scrutinised by the Finance Committee, whose labours extended over seven days; and, wherever necessary, the committee was also given opportunity for discussing the proposals with heads of departments. Sir, it is a criticism commonly levelled against all budget-makers that by some mysterious sleight of hand they disguise rather than disclose the real state of a country's finance and that budgets as a rule serve only to bewilder and confuse the unwary public. No such charge can be brought against the Government this year, as we placed the entire budget (except only those few heads which are fully non-votable) before the Finance Committee and the committee was given the fullest opportunity to examine and freely discuss every provision contained in it. Thus the budget that I now present to the House is not a document mysteriously hatched in the secret recesses of the Government Secretariat, but is one in the production of which both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured. I therefore feel that I can justly claim a cordial reception to it at the hands of the members of the House.

In my speech last year, I gave a brief review of our financial position, and I expressed the view that our financial outlook was not a gloomy one. The lapse of another year has only confirmed me in this view. While the Imperial Government, all the Provincial Governments and several of the Indian States are experiencing serious financial difficulties consequent on the economic dislocation and depression of trade that followed in the wake of the Great War, and are compelled to impose additional burdens on the people to make their budgets balance, our State has so far, by its cautious and prudential policy, escaped the common fate of most other Governments and has been able to balance its budgets without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure. On the contrary, members will remember how the Government have been able, without undue strain, to carry into effect recently a much-needed revision of the salaries of the subordinate services and also to embark on various new

schemes of progress and expansion, particularly in the departments concerned with the moral and material development of the country, while in the budget of the coming year as many as 58 new items costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs have also been included. At the same time, we have exercised very strict economy in expenditure; we have continued the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments as opportunities offered themselves, and we are preventing waste wherever possible; we are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and have diverted as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility; we are economising in the use of stationery both in quality and in quantity, and we are reducing expenditure under travelling allowances and contingencies. Though the outlook is thus not discouraging, I do not deny the fact that there is still trade depression and financial stringency in this country as elsewhere. The trade boom which followed on the Armistice was succeeded by a period of acute trade depression and the collapse of several business concerns; and the tightness of the money market has been further enhanced by the fall in the prices of the staple products of the country. There seems, however, to have been a partial improvement of trade conditions this year. The tea trade has distinctly improved, while the rubber industry shows some signs of reviving prosperity. Our customs returns indicate satisfactory activity in external trade. On the whole, though we cannot prognosticate any rapid improvement in financial conditions, we have, I think, good grounds for confidence that we have passed the period of acute depression and that more hopeful and prosperous times are in store for us.

I now pass on to the task of laying before the Council our estimates for the present and the coming year.

REVISED ESTIMATES OF THE CURRENT YEAR.

The budget estimates of the current year as finally passed provided for a small surplus of about Rs. ¾ lakh, the revenue being estimated at Rs. 194½ lakhs and the expenditure at Rs. 193¾ lakhs. We now estimate that we shall receive Rs. 197 lakhs or an improvement of Rs. 2½ lakhs, and our expenditure is not expected to be more than Rs. 189¾ lakhs, which is Rs. 4 lakhs less than the budget estimate. In the result, the anticipated surplus is raised from Rs. ¾ lakh to Rs. 7¼ lakhs. The revenue would have been Rs. 4¾ lakhs less or only Rs. 192¼ lakhs but for the increased receipt under Salt brought in by the enhancement of the salt duty by the Government of India with effect from 1st March 1923. From this it might be thought that we would have had to close this year with a deficit of Rs. 1½ lakhs but for this windfall. That, however, would not correctly represent the real situation. As is pointed out in my memorandum which accompanies the budget estimates, the provision we made for salaries and establishment this year was Rs. 2¼ lakhs in excess of the actual requirements of the year, not to speak of further savings in the shape of some lapses and surrenders. These lapses and surrenders, it should, however, be mentioned, are not peculiar to this year, but are usual in some departments every year. At

[Mr. K. George.]

the same time, Government have not stinted expenditure in any department, as will be seen from the fact that they made additional grants to the extent of Rs. 1,54,700 under non-votable heads and added Rs. 67,500 under votable items with the sanction of the Council or, in other words, added Rs. 2,22,200 to the initially budgeted expenditure of the year. The sum of Rs. 1,60,000 that has just been sanctioned has been excluded from this. Thus, even excluding the increased receipts under Salt, we would have closed this year with an appreciable surplus.

Revenue.

I shall refer briefly to the more important variations between the estimates and the actuals. Under Land Revenue, we estimated a revenue of Rs. 44 lakhs; but we now expect to realise only Rs. 42¼ lakhs. The fall of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs is almost entirely under sale of Government lands. This is due to the fact that there has been less demand for *pattaval* registry than was anticipated, partly on account of the scarcity of money and partly to the present policy of Government which is opposed to the registration of lands in large blocks in favour of single individuals. Though the immediate result of this policy has been a setback in the receipts from this source, it would, I believe, be admitted that it is to the ultimate advantage of the country to prevent the concentration of large areas of land in the hands of a few people. When economic conditions improve, we should be in a position to dispose of lands to the best advantage of both the Government and the people. I have already explained the increased receipts under Salt. Taking into account the normal expansion under this head due to increase in consumption, our revenue from salt duty would have been at least Rs. 14½ lakhs. The increase due to the raising of the salt duty from Br. Rs. 1-4-0 to Br. Rs. 2-8-0 per maund is about Rs. 4¾ lakhs. Under Excise, our estimate was Rs. 41¼ lakhs. Against this we anticipate a revenue of Rs. 44½ lakhs. Of the increase of Rs. 3¼ lakhs, nearly Rs. 1¼ lakhs is expected from Tobacco, due to increased consumption, and nearly Rs. 2 lakhs under Abkari and Opium. The current year's estimate under Abkari and Opium was nearly Rs. 3¼ lakhs below the receipts of 1097. This fall I explained last year as due to the decline in the amounts realised at the abkari auction sales. Since then a good many unsold shops have been taken up and the revenue is expected to be Rs. 2 lakhs in excess of the estimate. Coming to Customs, it will be seen that we expect to realise on the whole the revenue estimated in the budget. There is a fall of Rs. 2 lakhs under Land Customs -Exports; but this is counterbalanced by an increased receipt of nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs under Sea Customs—Exports. The total export duty realised is thus only about Rs. ½ lakh less than the previous year's receipts, but the figures seem to show considerable diversion of the export trade from the land routes to the seaports of the State, chiefly Alleppey. The balance of the fall under Land Customs—Exports is made good by a corresponding increase in import

duty. There is a large decrease of Rs. 2 lakhs under Forest. Our receipts in 1097 amounted to Rs. 15 lakhs and we estimated this amount as the revenue for 1098. But owing to the competition of Burma teak which has recently been unusually cheap, there has been little demand for our timbers from purchasers in British India, where most of our jungle-wood used to find a ready sale in previous years and this accounts for the estimated fall under this head. The only other item to which reference need be made is Railways. Under this head we anticipated a net income of Rs. 1 lakh after paying the interest on the English loans out of the net earnings. But owing to the facts that the working expenses of the Railway have risen, and the interest charges have also increased on account of an addition of about Rs. 15½ lakhs to the capital outlay mainly on account of purchase of rolling stock, the amount of loss we have to make good to the South Indian Railway Company is Rs. 1½ lakhs. Against this, we have got a receipt of Rs. ½ lakh, being the State's share of the net surplus in the two half years ended 30th September, 1919, and 30th September, 1920. This amount was originally omitted to be credited to us but has since been realised.

Expenditure.

Turning next to expenditure, as I have stated, we budgeted for a total expenditure of Rs. 193¾ lakhs, but according to the latest revision of the estimates we expect to spend only Rs. 189¼ lakhs. One reason for this decrease I have already explained, and that is, the provision in the current year's estimates for salaries and establishment was in excess of actual requirements to the extent of nearly Rs. 2¼ lakhs. A reference to the detailed explanations for the variations given in the Memorandum will show how this accounts for the anticipated savings in most departments. Under Salt there is a reduction of Rs. ½ lakh due to the lapse of the provision made under transport charges of salt. Another sum of over Rs. ½ lakh is saved under the head "His Highness the Maha Raja's Tours outside the State" due to the fact that the expenditure on His Highness' Tour to Cochin is expected to be only Rs. 45,000. A large decrease of over Rs. 1½ lakhs is anticipated under Education. This is almost entirely under Salaries and Establishment, due to the average pay of the time-scale posts provided in the budget being much in excess of the required amount. Under P. W. D. including Protective Irrigation, the expenditure is expected to be Rs. 25 lakhs against a budget grant of nearly Rs. 26 lakhs. The saving is mainly due to the fact that only a sum of Rs. 20,000 is expected to be spent in the construction of a palace at Delhi as against the budget provision of Rs. 1 lakh. The only item which shows any substantial increase in expenditure is Stationery and Printing. The provision of Rs. 3 lakhs under cost of stationery made in the current year's budget was to pay off fully for the stationery supplies received up to the close of 1097. It was explained last year that the cost of supplies received in 1098 would be paid only in 1099. This amounts to about Rs. 1,60,000. As we have a substantial surplus this year, Government have decided not to postpone the payment

[Mr. K. George.]

for the current year's supply to the next year. With this additional payment, we shall be practically quite current in our accounts with the Stationery contractor.

BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 1099.

7. I now turn to the estimates for the coming year. The revenue for the next year is estimated at Rs. 200¾ lakhs and the expenditure at Rs. 198¾ lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs. Salt Duty is estimated at the present rates only till the close of February 1924 as it is not certain that the enhanced rate of duty will continue thereafter. The expected revenue of Rs. 200¾ lakhs includes a sum of Rs 7 lakhs on this account. The normal revenue may therefore be put down at Rs. 193¾ lakhs. The estimated expenditure of Rs. 198¾ lakhs includes Rs. 3¾ lakhs on account of the *Murajapam*, Rs. 1 lakh for the construction of a palace at Delhi and Rs. 2¾ lakhs for leave allowances. The first two are not normal items of expenditure, being special to the coming year. As regards the last, the provision is made at the rate of 5 per cent. of the pay in ordinary departments and 2½ per cent. of the pay in departments in which regular vacations are allowed. Past experience, however, shows that the reserve provision will not be required in most of the departments and I expect that at least 50 per cent. of it will lapse. The percentages of 5 and 2½ have been adopted tentatively, and if, as I expect, a considerable portion of the provision lapses, the rates will be revised next year. I may also mention that the estimates of 1099 include provision to the extent of about Rs. 2¼ lakhs on account of various schemes which do not involve any recurring expenditure. The aggregate of these special items amounts to Rs. 8 lakhs, *viz.*—

Murajapam	...	Rs. 3¾ lakhs.
Excess provision for leave allowances	...	Rs. 1 lakh.
Construction of Delhi Palace	...	Rs. 1 lakh.
New schemes not involving recurring expenditure		Rs. 2¼ lakhs.
		Rs. 8 lakhs.

Excluding these, the normal expenditure for the next year will be only Rs. 190¾ lakhs, against which the estimate of normal revenue is Rs. 193¾ lakhs, thus leaving a surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs. This also indicates the soundness of our financial position.

Revenue.

Coming to details, the heads under which a substantial increase in revenue over the receipts of the current year is expected are Land Revenue (Rs. 1 lakh) and Salt (Rs. 1¼ lakhs). The increase under Land

Revenue is expected to be realised from the sale of Government lands. A large area of land has been surveyed and is now available for registry, and a large number of swamps inside forest reserves fit for paddy cultivation are also expected to be released for registration as the result of the investigation conducted by the mixed committees recently appointed; and if, as we expect, economic conditions improve, there is bound to be a large demand for *puduval* lands and the expected revenue could be easily made up. I have already referred to the increase under salt revenue. The improvement under duty on salt is Rs. 2¼ lakhs, due to the fact that duty at the increased rate will be recovered for 6½ months in 1099 as against 5½ months this year. Against this increase, a fall of Rs. 1 lakh is estimated under the head "Recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt", since, under the contract for the supply and sale of salt at Alleppey, Government do not incur transport charges on account of salt sold at that depôt and the recoveries of such charges are to that extent reduced. Before leaving this part of the subject, I would draw the attention of the members to our estimates under the heads Forest and Railways. As I have already stated, the revenue from Forests in the current year is expected to be Rs. 2 lakhs less than the estimate, owing to a serious fall in the demand for our timber. For 1099, although we may possibly expect a moderate recovery in the timber market, yet, to be on the safe side, we are not estimating anything more than the anticipated receipts of the current year. As regards Railways, it may be stated that the extension of the railway line to Trivandrum was attended by a surplus income from this source; but this has shown a gradual fall from Rs. 1¾ lakhs in 1094 to Rs. 1½ lakhs in 1095 and Rs. 1 lakh in 1096. In 1097 we incurred a loss of Rs. 1½ lakhs, and a loss of Rs. 1 lakh is expected this year. This adverse result is due, firstly, to a large increase in the amount of interest payable on the debentures raised in England for the construction of the railway, the debentures when they fell due having had to be renewed at the high rates of interest prevailing in the London money market at the time. Secondly, the working expenses of the railway have very largely increased in the last few years, due to increased expenditure on establishment, increased cost of fuel and larger expenditure on renewals and replacements. For the next year an appreciable reduction in interest charges may be anticipated as the major portion of the debentures, *viz.*, £ 2,87,000 out of £ 3,65,000, now bearing 6 per cent. interest, will fall due for renewal or payment on the 15th August next; and as the prevailing London rate of interest is considerably lower than 6 per cent. it may be expected that the bonds when renewed will not bear a higher rate of interest than 4½ per cent. which is the rate at which the remaining debentures have been lately renewed. On the other hand there is no reason to anticipate any large improvement in traffic earnings or any material reduction in the working expenses. Accordingly we have estimated a loss of Rs. 1 lakh under this head for the next year.

[Mr. K. George.]

Expenditure.

On the expenditure side we have provided Rs. 9 lakhs more than in the current year, and, as already indicated, the main reasons for this increase are the following:—

(i)	Provision for leave allowances	...	Rs. 2¾ lakhs.
(ii)	Do. for Murajapam ceremony	...	Rs. 3¼ „
(iii)	Increased allotment under Education	...	Rs. 3¾ „
(iv)	Do. under P. W. D. and Irrigation	...	Rs. 2 „

Against these increases the provision under two heads alone is substantially reduced, *viz.*, by Rs. 2½ lakhs under Stationery and Rs. ¾ lakh under Sinking Fund. The increase under Education is due generally to the normal expansion of the activities of the department and specially to the full effect of the revision of salaries which was sanctioned generally from 1st Vrischikam last being felt only this year, to the provision made for leave allowances and for appointments of additional teachers in English and Vernacular schools in connection with the opening of higher classes and additional divisions in schools, to the opening of Group II of the Intermediate class and the Natural Science section of the B. A. class in His Highness the Maha Raja's College and of Group I in His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women, and to the increased allotment of Rs. 85,000 made under grants-in-aid. Of the increase under grants, Rs 35,000 is intended to meet normal increase, while the balance is provided in order to compensate private school managers for the fee concessions that they might grant to the depressed and other educationally backward classes. Of the increase of Rs. 2 lakhs under P. W. D. and Irrigation, Rs. ¾ lakh is the additional provision made in connection with the construction of a palace at Delhi and Rs. ¾ lakh is reserved with the Government and the Chief Engineer for being utilised in the course of the year when new works not included in the P. W. D. budget are sanctioned, and for unforeseen expenditure. As regards the reduction under Stationery, I have already stated that we are spending this year for purchase of stationery nearly Rs. 4¾ lakhs as against a budget provision of Rs. 3 lakhs. For the next year we provide only Rs. 2 lakhs which represents the amount expected to be spent for the purchase of stationery in 1099. We have made a reduction of Rs. ¾ lakh in the allotment under Sinking Fund. Members might perhaps view this with some misgiving. But the reduction is quite warranted as I shall explain. Our original liability on account of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway amounted to Br. Rs. 118 lakhs. With a view to discharge the liability in 1945 when the contract would fall due, a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs was being set apart annually commencing from the year 1088 which was to accumulate at 3½ per cent. compound interest per annum. The liability has since increased to about Rs. 133½ lakhs mainly on account

of purchase of new rolling stock. The Sinking Fund balance now amounts to Rs. 29¼ lakhs and almost the whole of this amount is invested in Government of India securities as follows:—

Rs. 5 lakhs in the 6 per cent. loan of 1931.
Rs. 16 lakhs „ 5 per cent. „ 1945-55.
Rs. 8 lakhs „ 5 per cent. „ 1929-47.

It is proposed that the above investments when they fall due, and all future amounts to be set apart for this purpose, as also the interest on the above and all subsequent investments, should be invested in securities yielding not less than 5 per cent. interest per annum, and that, if in any case the investments will not yield 5 per cent. interest, the balance should be made good by the Government. Calculated on this basis, it has been found that, by setting apart a sum of Rs. 1¼ lakhs annually for this Fund, we would be making ample provision for the repayment of Rs. 133½ lakhs in 1945. If the liability be added to later on, further provision will, of course, have to be made under Sinking Fund.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE.

10. In the budget of the current year we provided Rs. 1 lakh in connection with certain additional works to be carried out on the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway. The actual expenditure is, however, estimated to be only Rs. 62,000. For 1099 the Railway Company has asked for Rs. 48,900 and this has been provided.

CASH BALANCE.

11. Lastly, I would refer to our cash position. The opening balance of the current year was estimated at Rs. 44¾ lakhs and the closing balance at Rs. 42½ lakhs. The actual opening balance was a few thousands more than the estimate. The ordinary and capital account transactions of the year are expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 6½ lakhs. During the year we advanced Rs. 3 lakhs on account of our share in carrying out the experimental works connected with the Cochin Harbour Scheme and we also invested Rs. 15 lakhs out of the Government surplus and the Sinking Fund balances. The net result of the other debt head transactions is an addition to cash of Rs. 7¼ lakhs. Thus the closing cash balance of the year is expected to amount to Rs. 40½ lakhs. In 1099 we anticipate a revenue surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs and a net receipt of Rs. 3¾ lakhs under Debt transactions. Deducting Rs. ½ lakh being the probable outlay on capital works not charged to revenue, the closing cash balance of 1099 is expected to be about Rs. 45¾ lakhs.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn and meet again on Thursday morning at 11-30.

The Council adjourned at 12-15 P. M.

S. PARAMESAVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 2nd August, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven-thirty of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Surgical Operations in the General Hospital.

19. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of persons now performing surgical operations in the General Hospital ?

(*b*) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that, in the present administration of the General Hospital, the appointment of young doctors having the requisite special knowledge, training and skill in surgical operations is absolutely necessary ?

(*c*) Are Government aware of the fact that many patients resort to the General Hospita for undergoing surgical operations, but are obliged to return for the reason that that work is not entrusted to qualified doctors ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Surgeon S. T. Ponnuswamy Pillai, Deputy Surgeon K. P. Raman Pillai and Assistant Surgeon S. Sivathanu Pillai.

(*b* The present administration, equipment and staff of the General Hospital do not call for any change with regard to surgical operations.

(*c*) Government have no such information. There are no unqualified doctors attached to the General Hospital.

Subscriptions for a Memorial to the Sanitary Commissioner.

20. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*) :(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware whether,

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

before Mr. Krishnamurti Aiyar, Sanitary Commissioner, was deputed for census work, any one collected subscriptions from his subordinates for a memorial in his name?

(*b*) Was the permission of the Government asked for or obtained in that matter?

(*c*) What was the amount collected for the purpose from the subordinates of that department?

(*d*) Will the Government severely punish those who are concerned in the matter, in case the money was collected without obtaining the permission of Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) these questions do not arise.

Circuit work of the Sanitary Commissioner.

21. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the present Sanitary Commissioner has gone on circuit to either the Devicolam Division or adjoining places since his reversion as Sanitary Commissioner; and

(*b*) whether he has gone to any place on circuit since his reversion as Sanitary Commissioner?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

Ganja and Opium Stores.

22. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any stock-taking of the ganja and opium stores in the Excise Commissioner's Office during the last three years?

(*b*) If the answer is in the negative, will they be pleased to state whether they will depute a competent Secretary from the Huzur Office to do the same without delay?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Stock-taking has been done regularly every month during the last three years.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), no answer is called for.

Excise Circle with the Largest Customs Revenue

23. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state which Excise Circle is it that brings in the largest amount of customs revenue?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Arukutty Division.

Disbandment of Excise Officers.

24. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Petty Officers and peons disbanded in connection with the reorganisation of the Excise Department?

(*b*) How may of these were disbanded in each Circle?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No permanent hands were disbanded in connection with the reorganisation, but 20 Petty Officers and 139 peons who were either temporary or acting were disbanded.

(*b*) A statement* containing the information is laid on the table

Revenue from the Arukutty Circle.

25. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the annual income under customs revenue in the Arukutty Circle for the past seven years;

(*b*) the amount of customs revenue in the Arukutty Circle in the current year until Edavam last;

(*c*) whether the customs revenue of the Arukutty Circle in 1098 is less than that in 1097, and, if so, what the amount of the fall is; and

(*d*) the reason for the fall?

C.I. MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Chs.	C.
1091	8,00,769	25	2
1092	8,34,221	27	14
1093	7,81,379	16	5
1094	9,93,514	5	1
1095	9,20,520	17	9
1096	10,99,388	11	7
1097	11,97,418	11	0

(*b*) The customs revenue up to the end of Edavam, 1098, is Rs. 8,75,682-3-9.

(*c*) The customs revenue of the Arukutty Division in 1098 up to the end of Edavam is less than that of the corresponding period of 1097 and the fall is B. Rs. 1,91,379-4-9.

(*d*) The fall is reported to be mainly under copra, cocoanut oil, coir, dry ginger, and pepper. The fall under coir and pepper which amounts to Rs. 70,000 is due evidently to the diversion of exports through the Alleppey Sea Customs where there is an increase of Rs. 1,23,000

* *Vide* Appendix—page 34.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

under both the items together. The fall of about Rs. 9,000 under dry ginger is small and is explained by ordinary variations in the output of the article. The fall under copra and cocoanut oil is said to be due to the comparatively smaller yield of the cocoanut trees throughout the country this year and is noticeable in other important *chowkeys* also.

Smuggling through Arukutty.

26. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the smuggling of goods to Cochin through the Arukutty *chowkey* is decreasing year after year?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner reports that there is hardly any smuggling through the Arukutty *chowkey*.

Motor boats in the Arukutty Circle.

27. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of motor boats attached to the Arukutty Circle at present;

(*b*) whether the purposes which the motor boats are intended to serve are being adequately served;

(*c*) whether those boats are being used daily at present;

(*d*) when the motor boats were purchased for the Arukutty Circle;

(*e*) what the price of each is; and

(*f*) the amount spent each year on account of the motor boats and the staff therefor?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are at present two motor boats, one attached to the Arukutty *chowkey* and the other to the preventive station at Nerekadavu.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The boats are being used daily for patrol work.

(*d*) One motor boat was purchased in Kumbham, 1096, and the other in Mithunam of that year.

(*e*) The price paid for each boat is Bh. Rs. 6,300.

(*f*) The expenditure on account of the boats and the staff attached thereto during 1096 and 1097 is shown below:—

Year.	Rs.
1096	317
1097	3,731

Reduction of the Patrolling Staff in the Arukutty Circle.

28. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the reductions made in the staff previously employed for patrol work in the Arukutty Circle, subseq..ent to the purchase of the motor boats referred to above; and

(*b*) the number and the official designation of the hands that were thus reduced?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) There was no reduction of hands at the Arukutty *chowkey* consequent on the introduction of motor boats. But there is reduction in the Nerekadavu and Perumblam ranges of the Division as shown below:—

One Inspector on	Rs.	50
One Petty Officer on	Rs.	20
One Petty Officer on	Rs.	17½
Two Petty Officers on	Rs.	12½ each
Three peons on	Rs.	8 each
Fifty-seven peons on	Rs.	7 each.

The total annual saving secured by the reduction of staff is Rs. 6,666.

Present Patrolling Staff in the Arukutty Division.

29. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many hands are employed for the requirements of each motor boat and how many for patrol work; and

(*b*) whether it has been found possible to get the work done satisfactorily by the hands at present employed both for running the boats and for patrol work at Arukutty?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The following hands are employed for plying each motor boat, one *viz.*, driver on Rs 20-2-30, one helmsman on Rs. 12-1-15 and one cleaner on Rs. 9-1-12. One Sub-Inspector or Petty Officer and two peons of the preventive force usually go in the motor boat for patrol work.

(*b*) Patrol work is now carried on in the Arukutty Division in motor boats as well as in ordinary boats. The existing preventive staff in the Arukutty Division is reported to be doing the patrol work satisfactorily.

Loan of Excise Motor Boats.

30. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether, in addition to the work of patrolling, the above motor boats are being used for private purposes as well;

(*b*) whether the motor boats are being lent for the use of officers of any other department;

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

(c) whether any fare or cost is being realised from them;

(d) if so, whether the same is being credited in the accounts; and

(e) whether the Government have given permission to lend motor boats for the use of others or to receive remuneration from them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) and (b) The motor boats are intended for patrol work. The Assistant Excise Commissioner, Arukutty, is reported to have used them for circuits on a few occasions, meeting the cost of petrol from his own pocket, and also to have lent one of the boats to an officer of another department on one occasion. The Excise Commissioner has issued stringent orders to the Assistant Excise Commissioner prohibiting the use of the boats for any purpose other than patrol work in future.

(c) and (d) On the occasion on which one of the boats was sent, no fare appears to have been received, but petrol was supplied by the officer to whom the boat was lent.

(e) No.

Travelling Allowances of Subordinates in the Excise Department.

31. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of cases in which employees of the Excise Department who had applied for transfer were made to pay the travelling allowance of the employees who were transferred in their place; and

(b) if so, the number of such instances as have occurred during the administration of the department by Mr. Van Ross?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) One Ranga Aiyar, clerk, Kayankulam Division Office, who was given a transfer to another office at his own request, was asked to meet the travelling charges of the employee transferred to the Kayankulam Division Office in his place.

(b) The above was the only instance.

Land Records Maintenance Work.

32. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:

(a) the total allotment for Land Records Maintenance work in the State in 1097;

(b) the actual amount spent on that work during the period;

(c) the recurring and non-recurring revenue accruing to the Government on account of the disposal of *poramboke* cases detected by the Land Records Maintenance staff during the period;

(*d*) the total amount of money spent by the Land Records Superintendent under travelling allowance and batta for 1097 and 1098; and

(*e*) the total amount of recoveries effected by the Land Records Superintendent from the pay and allowances of the Land Records Maintenance staff for short work?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Rs. 1,54,785.

(*b*) Rs. 1,14,015.

(*c*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 44 (i).

(*d*) Rs. 5,401.

(*e*) Rs. 9,262.

Pokkuvaravu Cases in Kanjirapalli.

33. MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to give a statement showing the following particulars regarding the transfer of registry cases in the Kanjirapalli *pakuthi* (including Kanjirapalli North and Kanjirapalli South *pakuthies* since their separation) from the year 1086 to the year 1097;

(i) the number of transfer of regisury case in the *pakuthi*;

(ii) the number of cases in which transfer of registry was effected;

(iii) the number of cases in which subdivision of property by survey was necessary; and

(iv) the number of cases in which transfer of registry was effected where such subdivision was necessary?

(*b*) Are the Government aware:

(i) that the lands in the present *pakuthies* of Kanjirapalli North and South are big blocks of *cherikal* lands;

(ii) that, in the large majority of cases, the cases are struck off the file stating that *patta* will be granted when the land is surveyed and subdivided; and

(iii) that owing to the want of subdivision by survey in transfer of registry cases a great many quarrels and criminal cases arise in these *pakuthies* during harvest in the month of Kanni?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to depute a survey party to effect subdivisions by survey both in the pending cases and in cases which are struck off the file for want of subdivisions by survey?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) (i) 1,315.

(ii) 430.

(iii) 824.

(iv) 69.

(*b*) (i) There are big blocks of *cherikal* lands in the Kanjirapalli *pakuthi*.

[Mr. T. R. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

(ii) Orders have been passed in a few cases, that *pattas* will be granted when the lands are surveyed and sub-divided.

(iii) Government have no information.

(c) The Kanjirapalli *pakuthi* now forms part of the Changanachery taluk for which there is an Assistant Tahsildar and that officer must undertake the work in due course.

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 24.

Statement showing the number of acting or temporary hands disbanded from each Division in the Excise Department.

Division.			*Petty Officers.*	*Peons.*
Salt Factories	...	...	8	37
Nagercoil	...	...	...	16
Trivandrum	...	...	...	4
Quilon	...	...	8	22
Kayankulam	...	...	...	4
Alleppey	...	...	3	3
Arukutty	...	...	...	10
Piravam	...	...	...	5
Kottayam	...	...	...	3
Alwaye	...	...	1	16
Devicolam	...	...	...	15
Excise Commissioner's Office		...	...	4
Total		......	20	139

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

PRESIDENT: The general discussion of the budget will now begin.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*): Sir, it is certainly gratifying to members on this side of the House to be told that the budget which the Financial Secretary introduced in the Council on Monday last was the result of the joint labours of the Government and the representatives of this Council. I have no doubt that members of the House will accord to the budget a cordial reception which Mr. George claims for it and a comparative immunity from criticism which the claim implies. Absolute immunity from criticism is certainly unthinkable.

When the budget for the current year was presented to the House in Karkadakam last, there was a spirit of robust optimism in the speech of the Financial Secretary. Some of us, however, who listened to the speech, were not without serious apprehensions whether, when the accounts for the year were closed, instead of a nominal surplus a heavy deficit would not stare us in the face. Our apprehensions, however, have been falsified by the figures embodied in the budget. From a nominal surplus of about Rs. 71,000, we find that the present year will close with a surplus of something like Rs. 7¼ lakhs. This extraordinary result, to my mind, has to be traced to two distinct causes, *viz.*, a windfall in the shape of the enhanced salt tax and an increase of revenue under the head of country liquor. The first accounts for something like Rs. 4¾ lakhs and the second for something like Rs. 2·60 lakhs. Speaking generally, from the standpoint of the economic condition of the people, I should have been perfectly happy if this increase had resulted from any other source than salt and liquor. I realise, Sir, that, under the terms of the existing arrangements with the British Government, we are bound to raise the salt duty whenever it is raised by the Government of India. I, however, trust that this enhancement of duty will not seriously lower the quantity of consumption per head of the population as a direct result. The abkari revenue, especially the revenue under liquor, has never been regarded either by the Government or by the representatives of the people as a desirable source of revenue for running the administration. I have no doubt that, sooner or later, the Government will have to face the contingency—sooner rather than later—of doing away with this tainted income. But I realise the practical difficulty in the way of the country going 'dry' all at once. Nevertheless, statesmanship demands that some attempt should be made beyond the administrative measures now adopted. Some attempt should be made for reducing steadily the quantity of liquor consumed in the country, until the Government will be in a position to do away with the iniquitous revenue derived under the head of liquor and develop other sources of revenue to allow the administration to proceed without its progressive requirements being in any way starved. Oftentimes we hear of retrenchment as an alternative scheme; but I frankly recognise that

[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

beyond a certain limit it is impossible to continue the cry of retrenchment unless the administrative machinery is to face the fate of the Irishman's horse that was humorously referred to by Mr. Ginwala in the last debate in the Indian Legislative Assembly.

Some time back, while reading through one of the recent issues of the *Indian Engineering*, I found a well-informed article dealing with the existence of mineral deposits of kerosine oil in the neighbourhood of Alleppey and Purakad. It did not strike me that it was the outcome of an enthusiast's brain. It struck me at the time that the writer of the article had considerable data before him when he wrote that instructive article on the existence of mineral deposits and petroleum not merely at Alleppey and Purakad, but in the neighbourhood of Cochin also. I have no doubt that, in the course of his investigations, Mr. Chacko, the State Geologist, should have made a careful study of the possibilities of developing our mineral wealth in that part of the country for purposes of adding to our sources of revenue. We used to say that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world; then we were told that the almighty dollar rules the world; and now we are told that mineral oil rules the world. If that be the state of things and if, after all, there is a fairly good supply of mineral oil awaiting man's industry to supply the Government with funds to replace the loss that the abolition of abkari revenue might entail, I make a present of that to my friend Mr. George; and I certainly expect that Mr. Chacko, in the course of his reply, will tell us something substantial as to whether the story that is depicted in such glowing colours in the columns of the review quoted by me has any foundation in fact. In any event, it appears to me that, if with a little expenditure the question could be satisfactorily ascertained, it is an expenditure that this House should not grudge. Many of us are aware of the phenomenon of what is known as the mudbank providing perfectly safe anchorage in the neighbourhood of Alleppey and Purakad during a great part of the year. There is a popular impression—it may be absolutely erroneous; I am merely repeating what I have been told—that this mudbank evidences the existence of oil in the neighbourhood.

However, as I said at the outset, the results for the year 1098 are very satisfactory; and the forecast for the coming year based on the figures of the revised budget for 1098 cannot be said to be over-optimistic. I do find that ample provision is made for education, especially in the direction of providing facilities for the children of the backward classes and of the depressed classes. I have only one observation to make in that connection. It has been a standing complaint with me, ever since the new Education Code was introduced, that absolutely no provision was made by Government for encouraging really intelligent but poor youths in the matter of receiving higher education. Time was, Sir, when ample provision was made in His Highness the Maha Raja's College and in the High School attached thereto, when I was reading in the eighties of the last century; and

that concession which obtained not merely in the departmental schools but in aided schools also was a commonly recognised help until the new Education Code was introduced by Dr. Mitchell. The system received a knock-down blow then; and as a result of the representations made to the Government in succeeding years, I was given to understand that Government proposed to devise a system of scholarships for the help of really intelligent youths in different parts of the State. A system of scholarships was attached to every departmental and aided school; but the system of free scholarships which obtained in the good old days practically disappeared. If, in an advanced country like England, a large percentage of free scholarships is provided, I fail to see how we are better off in the matter of our general economic strength, so that the Government might safely tell the people: "You pay for your education or better not join the school". That, I submit, is certainly an unfair view for any Government to take merely because the expenses of education are going up. I do concede, Sir, that, more than any other province or Indian State, the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja have been spending very generously in the matter of the spread of education during all these years. But, all the same, it is a real difficulty which I submit was not removed by the Government when recently they directed that the representatives of particular communities would have the benefit of their children being educated at concessional fee rates. I have no quarrel with them. Even there, I just mention one circumstance which struck me, *viz.*, that while a judge's son will have the benefit of the concession, that judge's peon's son will have to pay full rates. It is not an imaginary state of things that I am depicting. Why the benefit of that concession should be withheld from caste Hindus and the Syrian Christian community in the State passes my comprehension. It might be said that those communities are fairly well off. That does not mean that every member of the community is in a position to meet the enormously growing demands in the matter of the education of his children. I do not grudge the grant of special encouragement to the representatives of backward and depressed classes to bring them into line with advanced communities in the State. The depressed classes as a class are a landless class; until recently there was hardly any one among them that could be said to own an inch of land. That state of things is engaging the sympathetic attention of Government; and I know that arrangements have been made for registering small blocks in the names of members of these depressed classes. But why should members of communities sufficiently well off in the material things of life be generously benefited, ignoring the legitimate claims of poor members of other communities? It ought not to be withheld from one because it was his misfortune to have been born in a particular community. Time is long gone when any man can claim privileges on the score of his birth. But birth should not turn out to be a serious obstacle in the race of life. With these observations, I resume my seat.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, by claiming that the budget estimates for 1099 presented to the House

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

last Monday were the joint production of the Government and the representatives of this Council on the Finance Committee, the Financial Secretary was obviously apologising for its imperfections or deliberately placing the non-official members of that committee in a difficult situation. In the first place, the budget was, as usual, "hatched in the secret recesses of the Secretariat" though the three non-official members, who were always in a minority in that predominantly official body with the Dewan as President, were allowed an opportunity to examine and discuss the proposals. They have not set their seal either collectively or individually to the proposals embodied in the budget as such and it is misleading to imply that, by being allowed to view an advance copy of the budget, your representatives surrendered their right to freely criticise the budget in the Council. It is hardly to be expected that, during the budget sittings of the committee lasting for seven days only, the committee could elaborate a scheme of retrenchment in the public service involving great and fundamental changes in the organisation and working of the various departments.

The budget placed before the committee was in two parts; the first dealt with all items of ordinary expenditure essential for the carrying on of the administration according to existing sanctions and aggregating to nearly Rs. 194·94 lakhs out of the total budgeted expenditure of Rs. 198·73 lakhs for 1099. In regard to this part, we had to content ourselves with urging the suggestions made in this House during the last budget session and which will, I am sure, be repeated this year. Part II consisting of the new proposals costing Rs. 3¾ lakhs came in for a freer discussion; and it may be noted that the non-official side dissented in respect of schemes involving more than Rs. 1½ lakhs and approved most of the items that mainly related to the Development Departments. The committee, it may be observed, omitted proposals to the extent of Rs. 84,000 on account of buildings and tools and plant. I have felt it due to myself and to my colleagues on the Finance Committee to dwell at some length on this matter as the words of the Financial Secretary are misleading. The non-officials on the Finance Committee are not permitted under the G. O. constituting the Committee to take any initiative; and to my mind the most beneficial result of the discussions has been a closer mutual understanding of the official and non-official points of view.

The members of the Finance Committee were elected in November last, but the executive order appointing the Committee and defining its powers was issued only some months after. Prior to the budget meeting, the committee met only once in connection with the supplementary grants placed before the Council at the April meeting. It is to be hoped that the reconstituted committee will be predominantly non-official in character and given wider powers as implied in the Dewan's replies to certain representations made at the last session of the Assembly and that the committee will be afforded an opportunity to initiate schemes

and suggest retrenchments. The Committee should be a creature of this House like any other select committee.

The Financial Secretary claims that there has been no mystery in the framing of the budget this year. No doubt we realised that even a layman uninitiated in the mysteries of high finance could present a surplus budget so long as the certification of the salt tax by the Viceroy brings in an inevitable increase of revenue or the reduction of the outlay on Public Works proper may be brought to the rescue. The huge commitments of the Government such as the Cochin Harbour scheme involving substantial amounts were never placed before the committee; and it has come as a surprise to find it included under "Advances Repayable". Neither the memorandum nor the Financial Secretary's speech gives any indication whatever of the reasons which led to the transfer of this item from a Service Head to a Debt Head. I cannot support the policy of financing capital expenditure on such big schemes out of the cash balance. The House would be glad, in view of the past history of the scheme and the future liabilities of Government in the matter, if a full statement of the case could be furnished.

I would join issues in regard to the claims frequently made on behalf of the superior wisdom of the Travancore Finance Department in tiding over a period of "unprecedented economic depression" and "universal scarcity of money" "without imposing additional burdens on the people" and "without starving the needs of a progressive administration". As I have more than once observed, to compare the conditions affecting the rise and fall of revenue and expenditure in Travancore with those violent fluctuations which characterise the finances of the European countries after the war, or for that matter with those of the Imperial or Provincial Governments in India, is to compare two *essentially* different things. We have not those problems of unemployment and its insurance, war pensions, interest on the national debt, bounties to safeguard agriculture and local industries or dulness or diversion of trade caused by a fall in the exchange or unsettled political conditions as is the case in Europe. Nor have we, as elsewhere in India, the problem of provincial contributions, the incubus of an excessive military budget or the grade of salaries attached to Imperial Services or the increased expenditure directly brought about by the democratisation of the governmental machinery. Our trade has steadily been improving as is indicated by the customs revenue. In our insularity lies a great measure of safety, and windfalls like the salt tax fortunately come to our rescue. For, without the salt tax, the receipts would have stood at Rs. 193¼ lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 198¾ lakhs during 1099. I therefore demur when the Finance Department pretends to arrogate to itself and to "its cautious and prudential policy" the credit for our not being bankrupt.

I may, in this connection, be permitted to make a passing reference to the new schemes, mentioned by the Financial Secretary in his speech, costing Rs. 3¾ lakhs. If the Land Records scheme and the Puduval Survey scheme are included in that list, I might at once say they cost more than Rs. 1½ lakhs and are lingering against the wishes of the people

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and to the uneasiness of Government, whereas such schemes as the Committee of Ways and Means, the Central Recruitment Board and the Land Colonisation scheme, referred to in the Dewan's addresses to the Assembly are yet to see the light of day. The Trivandrum Water Supply scheme has also not matured yet.

It is also necessary to examine the claim made on behalf of the Development Departments. I have been at some pains to work out the increase in expenditure incurred on the various Development Departments during the years 1096 to 1099 and I find that out of the total increase of nearly Rs. 8½ lakhs attained during these years, about Rs. 7½ lakhs is under Education and only Rs. 1 lakh has been spent under all the other heads put together. In regard to this expenditure on Education, Government's hands are more or less forced, the additional expenditure being mostly under salaries.

During the three years 1095 to 1097, there has been an increase in revenue to the extent of Rs. 19 lakhs against an increase in expenditure of Rs. 40½ lakhs. According to the revised estimates of 1098, the expenditure fell short of the budget by Rs. 4 lakhs. The major portion of this decrease is explained by the Financial Secretary as due to the average salaries provided for in the budget being far less than the actuals incurred. The net result of the normal transactions of the year has been that we continue to be where we were. The budget is disappointing in that it does not indicate any serious attempt having been made by Government to tackle the several problems raised in this House regarding the improvement of the revenue resources and retrenchment of expenditure under public service.

At the last budget session, the Deputy President was allowed to suggest the reopening of the Interportal Trade Convention. And my friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai subsequently elaborated the idea and pleaded with characteristic force and ability the cause of Travancore before one who now belongs to the Government of Madras. It is believed that out of the revision of this trade agreement would come our financial salvation. On principle we have a right to reopen the contract in view of the altered economic conditions. Before reopening the question, I feel, however, bound to point out the supreme necessity for ensuring the local production of all the salt required for consumption in the State. I would, in this connection, also draw the serious attention of Government to reconsider the position relating to the refund of tea duty to the British Government and to secure for us the benefit of the duty on opium consumed in this State.

The steady improvement of the finances of the State is impossible except by a substantial development of our earning capacity, except by the augmenting of our agricultural and industrial output. In the former department, though much has been done, the outlay is inadequate having regard to the fact that agriculture is the staple industry of the State. Very much more remains to be done by way of

popularising the department's activities in the State. In regard to the latter, we have not apparently left the stage of experiments. To me it has always appeared strange that we cannot, in spite of our experts, profit by the example of other countries, but have to start afresh. Admittedly, our natural resources are abundant and I do not see why we should not, if our experts and the department are worth anything, have our own industrial concerns. The history of our Department of Industries is one of alternating hopes and disappointments. Factories and depôts are opened with a flourish of trumpets and closed with a funeral note; experts are trained, appointed, abolished and sent to other departments. The department has yet to justify its existence.

At this stage, I would content myself with these cursory remarks about our finances, reserving the more detailed and thorough examination of the estimates for the later stage of voting on the individual demands for grants. I seek your indulgence to refer briefly to one or two administrative questions of importance.

I believe that you, Sir, as the Head of the Administration have been responsible for more committees than all your predecessors put together. On a rough calculation, I find that as many as 15 or 16 committees have been appointed by you, not to speak of the numerous official and non-official conferences. I am not chiefly concerned now with the expenditure that these committees and conferences have entailed and are entailing. It would also be foreign to my present purpose to enlarge upon the work of any of these committees; but having had the privilege of representing my brother members on five of these committees, I may speak with some authority on their usefulness; and I feel that in the larger interests of administration I should not omit to refer to their drawbacks. My belief in the immediate necessity for a larger instalment of constitutional reform and for the introduction of the beginnings of responsible Government only makes me all the more ready to admit gratefully that Regulation II of 1097 marks a decided and distinct step in advance. I am prepared to concede that several of the committees were created out of your personal desire to associate representatives of the people in the task of formulation of policies. As I submitted already, these committees labour under certain common disadvantages. The Salaries Committee was confined to appointments below Rs. 150 and was thereby disabled to view the entire question of the over-manning of the public service. The Educational Scholarships Committee was nowhere demanded, its terms of reference were narrow, and the committee was precluded from making any suggestion which would result in increased expenditure. The College Accommodation Committee was constituted with a predominantly official majority, the reference was severely restricted in scope and the vital question of adequate facilities for collegiate education in the State still remains unsolved. The Finance Committee exists on an executive order and I have already disposed of the claim advanced by the Financial Secretary in regard to its hatching the budget. The Assembly Rules Committee was constrained to ask for relief because no useful purpose could be served by it on account of the

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rigid interpretation of the scope of the terms of reference. While committees have been lavishly appointed even though there was no demand for some of them and while their usefulness was considerably impaired and in certain cases nullified by the terms of reference, Government have been indifferent when even the greatest pressure has been brought to bear upon them for the appointment of committees in regard to such matters as retrenchment. I have no hesitation to state that, unless the committees are composed of a majority of elected non-official representatives, unless the terms of reference are wide enough to enable the committees to adequately deal with the entire question at issue, unless committees are appointed where there is an unmistakable demand for them, the expenditure on them is a waste and should be avoided and that in the result they do more harm than good.

Speaking of the retrenchments effected in the public service, I wish to refer to one important point before I close. We are often reminded from the Government benches that there is a limit to retrenchment beyond which it will cease to be economical. We are told that it will impair efficiency. Sir, it is high time that we have clear notions of the term efficiency. Is there a standard of efficiency fixed by Government which may be ascertained and measured either in the quality or quantity of work turned out by their officers? If so, can it be claimed that for the very large percentage of expenditure incurred on account of the public service the standard of efficiency is steadily maintained? Sir, there is considerable difference of opinion in regard to this matter between the Government and the people. If payment of increased salaries is the sole test of efficiency, the public service in Travancore is really efficient; otherwise the people have yet to be convinced of the true import of the term as applied to the Travancore service.

From the questions that have been put during the past and the present sessions of the Council and from the representations made in the Popular Assembly, Government will have noticed that certain departments have come in for a considerable share of suspicion and criticism. Is it that the Government are really unaware of the volume of public opinion in the matter or are they deliberately believing in the infallibility or incorruptibility of their officers? Without specifying names, I would only mention that affairs in more than one department do not seem to be what they should be. When discomforting facts are sought to be elicited by disinterested non-officials, it is easy for the Government to say that "they are not aware"; but perfect ignorance of the popular mind is neither wisdom nor statesmanship. I would therefore put in a strong plea on behalf of that popular opinion which has faintly been echoed in the questions dealt with and the representations made relating to certain departments, and invite the Government to undertake a dispassionate examination of the departments concerned.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I have to confess to a feeling of disillusionment after the luminous

speech with which the Financial Secretary prefaced his presentation of the budget. The revelation contained in the following passage has helped to dispel the mist:

"It is a criticism commonly levelled against all budget-makers that by some mysterious sleight of hand they disguise rather than disclose the real state of a country's finance and that budgets as a rule serve only to bewilder and confuse the unwary public."

The next sentence in which it is claimed that no such charge can be brought against the Government *this year* has relieved our minds of a load of doubt. We feel flattered again that our plea for development and retrenchment has met with such ready response as indicated in the passage:

"On the contrary, members will remember how the Government have been able without undue strain to carry into effect a much-needed revision of salaries of the subordinate services and also to embark on various new schemes of progress and expansion, particularly in the departments concerned with the moral and material development of the country, while in the budget of the coming year as many as 58 new schemes costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs have also been included. At the same time, we have exercised very strict economy in expenditure; we have continued the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments as opportunities offered themselves, and we are preventing waste wherever possible; we are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and have diverted as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility; we are economising in the use of stationery both in quality and in quantity; and we are reducing expenditure under travelling allowances and contingencies".

As representatives of "the unwary public" we feel "bewildered and confused" with the search some of us are yet making to discover the 58 new schemes costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs, presumably concerned with the moral and material development of the country.

The Financial Secretary does not seek to hide his jubilation over the following fact:

"While the Imperial Government, all the Provincial Governments and several of the Indian States are experiencing serious financial difficulties consequent on the economic dislocation and depression of trade that followed in the wake of the Great War, and are compelled to impose additional burdens on the people to make their budgets balance, our State has so far, by its cautious and prudential policy, escaped the common fate of most other Governments and has been able to balance its budget without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure".

Here is a piece of self-laudation that our State by its cautious and prudent policy has escaped the "common fate of most other Governments" and has been able to balance its budget without having to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure. Note the moral of the lesson—how want of caution and imprudence have placed other Governments, Imperial and Provincial, in serious finanial difficulties! That we have balanced our budget is true. That we did not make any appreciable curtailments in expenditure is equally true. But does the latter redound to our credit or evidence our caution or prudence? Has this result been achieved without additional taxation? What is the enhanced salt duty if not new taxation, whether imposed by ourselves or imposed for us by others? And what would have been our plight but for this unexpected windfall? May we not have

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shared the fate of most Governments as Mr. George tersely puts it? Mr. George again takes credit for making provision for Rs. 2½ lakhs against salaries and allowances in excess of actual requirements. Now this implies one of two things, either that this over-estimate was made of set purpose or that a *bona fide* mistake was made by which we have profited. I would much rather accept the latter alternative than allow Mr. George to give credit to himself for want of confidence in the House. Any way, it is apparent now that both the revenue and expenditure forecasts were visualised or projected through a magnifier.

Sir, it is a well-recognised principle that the superstructure of a country's expenditure has to be built on the foundation of certain recurring revenue. We invited the attention of the Financial Secretary last year to some doubtful items of revenue. We took exception to the sale proceeds of Government land being treated as revenue available for recurring expenditure. This is only capital in another shape. It depends on varying factors to be available in liquid form. The Financial Secretary reckons on this item for Rs. 4½ lakhs. In 1098 we made Rs. 2 lakhs less than the budgeted figure. Conditions have not improved since. Out of Rs. 3,51,000, realised, the auction of the Vembanad reclamations, third period, is accountable for over a lakh of rupees. This source has run dry and, sooner or later, lands available for sale must also get exhausted. Rs. 2½ lakhs might therefore be a workable forecast.

As regards forest revenue, I forecasted a shortage of Rs. 2 lakhs last year. And I find it has been proved by the results.

From income-tax in 1098, we made Rs. 4,35,000. I doubt whether we shall be justified in expecting Rs. 5 lakhs this year unless we have consciously left out any considerable items.

Customs have improved with the revival of trade and excise has caught up at the fag end, while salt may be depended upon for another Rs. 4 lakhs. But trade conditions are still uncertain and might follow the probable collapse of Germany in the world of trade. The revenue from salt might fizzle out next year. Under the circumstances, it might be better to err on the safe side and budget for at least Rs. 5 lakhs less than the present estimate.

Coming to the expenditure side, we do not find much of improvement, though we are cheered by the recognition that there is scope for retrenchment. We gratefully appreciate the willingness of the Government to lop off unnecessary appointments and prevent waste.

It may be interesting at this stage to see how far expenditure has been mounting up during the last six years. In 1094 our expenditure stood at Rs. 1,61,30,229; in 1095 it shot up by Rs. 18 lakhs and over to Rs. 1,79,01,708; in 1096 it went up to Rs. 1,86,83,755; in 1097 it reached Rs. 1,92,35,524; the actual figures for 1098 are not yet available. In 1099, the demand is for Rs. 1,98,23,700. Let

us also bear in mind that all this is recurring expenditure which has to be provided for.

What the State wants or what the people want is more and more money for development. The State has to support an already dense and growing population. Our schools and colleges are annually adding thousands to the army of unemployed consumers. Agriculture is our mainstay. The coast regions and the near hillsides have been worked out. The highlands form the only resource left. We, lowlanders, grudge money for the opening of the highlands, not realising that the highlands have to feed the future generation. Facility of communication is the foundation of development. We want railways linking centres of trade with centres of produce. We want more and more roads. We want our great asset, the waterways of Travancore, to be improved and extended. We want our choked-up channels and rivers dredged up to their source. We want agricultural, technical and higher scientific education.

The problem is how to find the money without fresh taxation. The only solution is retrenchment. And the only subject—our over-manned and over-paid services. I know that the slightest reference to the emoluments of the service might cause rumblings and ebullitions. Every Travancorean realises in his heart of hearts that the service consumes 38 per cent. of the total revenues, *i. e.*, more money than it ought to. I said on the last occasion that, as at present, the State exists for the service and not the service for the State. Slackness of work necessitating more and more hands is another feature of our service. I do not refer to the responsible heads of departments assembled here. I believe all of them realise the evil and are combating it. But the current, by time and early neglect, has gathered accelerated power and has become too strong now. It is a well-known fact that the reward of slackness is an additional hand, of course temporary, but these temporaries have to keep up the arrears to justify their continuance. Places are created for individuals, and patronage and its disposal have been demoralising the service.

One might expect the commercial services at least to be free from this species of over-capitalisation. Let us take the Anchal Department. It is now working at a loss of over Rs. 50,000 a year. It was one of the earliest departments to be reorganised and has been treated with exceptional liberality. If such a business had been run by a private agency, the salaries would have been proportionate to the earnings. Even now, by standardisation of paper and forms, by leaving the department to buy its stationery and do its printing at the cheapest house, by lowering the grades of offices, and by converting offices which are not self-supporting into non-departmental experimental offices the deficit can be covered up.

The Government Press is easily the most uncommercial of the commercial services. We find a capital investment of Rs. 2,28,250 and a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 1,10,000 a year. We know that it works at enormous loss as the resultant rates are almost double the rates in private houses. As the accounts are mixed up with those of the Stationery Department and no balance sheet has ever been sought to be

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prepared, the extent of the losses is kept in "the secret recesses of the Government Secretariat", as Mr. George has admirably put it.

The Stationery Department is another that needs thorough overhauling. Stocks in hand at the end of the year have never been, if ever, taken.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The stocks are published every year in the Administration Report.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai says that the stocks are published every year in the Administration Report. The quantity and the value of the stock ordered and the value of the stock in hand are published every year.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): On the other hand I used the words "at the end of the year", but not "at the beginning of the year".

PRESIDENT: The report deals with a definite year.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The cost prices of the various articles should be published to enable the public to compare the figures with those in the open market. If an allotment is made in money to the various departments and each department is charged with the prices of stationery supplied, order may be evolved in a few years. Here also, standardisation might help considerably. The department might be put in charge of the Superintendent of the Press and a proportionate saving of salaries effected.

The Forest Department is a quasi-commercial department. The budget estimate of expenses for the coming year is Rs. 8,14,000 out of which Rs. 2,28,000 goes towards salaries and allowances. The major portion of this huge establishment is kept up for work outside the reserve areas. If all the timber outside the reserves be sold off, and isolated small forests (of which there are many) thrown open for registry, a large saving can be made in the annual recurring expenditure; and the surviving staff can concentrate on their real work of conservation and exploitation of the reserved forests.

In the Revenue Department, one division more can be abolished, Peishkars replaced by less costly officers in view of altered conditions, and the judicial separated entirely from the revenue side. In 1095, the Land Records establishment and the Revenue Survey Department were costing only Rs. 60,928. The proposed increase is Rs. 1,29,629. With a surveyor for each taluk, a head surveyor for each division, a small staff in the head office for checking, verification etc., the department should not cost more than Rs. 50,000 a year. For original work, private surveyors may be employed and paid at not more than Re. 1 per acre and the necessary chainmen engaged on the piece-work system.

These are but illustrations. Twenty minutes do not permit more.

PRESIDENT: Your twenty minutes are over.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) With the permission of the President, I shall use another five minutes.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I cannot allow you.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I am at one with the Financial Secretary to Government in thinking that the budget estimate presented to this House is unlike the previous ones. There are distinct signs of improvement in it and I am thankful to him and the Government for lightening the work of the members. I am sorry, however, that I cannot give him an unqualified support in everything that he says; and though he has my fullest sympathy I feel compelled to observe that the financial outlook is rather gloomy. I cannot help remarking that the financial position of the State as a whole appears to be unsound. The Financial Secretary characterises the policy of Government as "cautious and prudential". I regret that some reservation is necessary in accepting it. To begin with, a comparison is made between Travancore and outside countries and an inference is drawn therefrom that, in spite of the heavy strain and burdens incidental to the Great War affecting all of them alike, Travancore scored better than the others. The comparison is undoubtedly fallacious. For, while the Government of India and the Provincial Governments were directly concerned with the prosecution of the war and were therefore exposed to the duties and liabilities arising out of it, Travancore, remote from the scene of activities, had comparatively less difficulties to contend against. I grant it was a question of degree. But beyond that I feel unable to go. Even assuming that the conditions were all alike, I find I cannot possibly accept the statement that a balanced budget was maintained from year to year in Travancore without resort to new taxation.

PRESIDENT: Will you please read a bit slower so that members may follow?

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The House is well aware of the introduction in recent years of such taxation by Government directly, and through local bodies, indirectly. The Financial Secretary appears to be happy over the avoidance of a deficit budget. I cannot admit that our financial condition is good merely because a small surplus has been somehow or other shown every year. To my mind, sound finance consists in meeting the normal expenses of a Government by a steadily progressive and reliable income.

Let me first consider the financial position of the State as a whole or—to be more specific—the assets and liabilities. If one were to go through the Administration Reports, one will find that the assets generally exceed the liabilities. But that apparent outlook is mysteriously presented. A deeper scrutiny should convince one that the soundness is artificial. The assets are generally shown at their face value without reference to their market rates. The liabilities on the other hand are not often fully stated. Non-current coins kept in reserve are generally shown at their face value in the cash balance and the outstanding liabilities in the shape of arrears are often omitted.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is not so.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The arrears due to the stationery contractors were not till recently shown among the liabilities, and the unpaid interest on the Travancore Debenture Bonds has not been specifically stated. Similarly, provision for refund of income-tax in pending cases has not been made.

The Finance Member points out that the current year would end with a surplus. All of us are aware that, but for the acknowledged windfall of the salt duty and the unaccountable decrease in the P. W. D. expenses, the balance would have been on the wrong side. Coming to the next year, Mr. George anticipates a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs; and for that purpose he has laid undue hopes on land, forest, excise etc. We have seen that his anticipations in the same direction this time last year have totally failed. It is calculated that the salt duty at the enhanced rate would bring in Rs. 7 lakhs for the first 6½ months of the next year; but that estimate can be found to be inaccurate from his own admission that the same duty contributed only Rs. 4¾ lakhs during the last 5½ months of the current year. Even if this increase is proved to be correct, I cannot see the wisdom of throwing such casual income into the general revenues of the State. The salt duty is contributed mainly by the poor of the State; and as such one would expect that the Government would have earmarked this revenue for some purpose that directly benefited them. There has been failure of crops in several parts of the State for the last few years due to unseasonal rains, and the allotment of this amount for some irrigational purpose would have been only in place. Another measure adopted to secure this budget surplus is the curtailment of the annual contribution towards the sinking fund for the Quilon-Shencottah railway debenture loan. The handling of the sinking fund so far has been not quite satisfactory and I am glad to find that the present Government has now started to put matters right. It is, however, doubtful whether this curtailment is in the right line. Calculation obviously has been made to meet a fixed capital expenditure falling due at a later time. Our experience so far has been that the said capital outlay tends steadily to increase. Provision has also to be made to meet such possible future increases. Recourse is further made to withhold the grants to local bodies. The policy underlying this procedure is, to my mind, inexplicable. Even supposing that the local bodies should be made self-supporting as far as possible, I do not think that the absolute withholding of Government grant can be justified. The people of the towns are contributing to the general revenues of the State in the same way as those outside, and as such they have a right to expect the same privileges at the hands of Government. At all events I cannot see the justification for the special treatment accorded to the Trivandrum Municipality. The usual grant is retained in its case and several other

provisions are also seen in the budget for that purpose. If proper adjustments are made in the light of these criticisms, it can easily be seen that the so-called surplus budget presented now transforms itself into a deficit one.

The finances of the State would have been something different now if the departments concerned had gone about their work in a really prudential and cautious manner. If they had done so, the revenues of the State would have been considerably greater and that from steady sources. We have a railway from Quilon to Shencottah on account of which there is a capital liability of over Rs. 132 lakhs. This is besides the enormous sum that the State has been paying annually to make up the guaranteed interest. The working expenses on the railway have been going up by leaps and bounds; but that being an excluded subject I do not wish to enter into details here. The original liability stood at nearly Rs. 117 lakhs which went up to Rs. 132 lakhs in 1097. This increase is said to be due to the purchase of rolling stock to the extent of Rs 13¾ lakhs in that year. One fails to see why in that particular year such an enormous amount was spent for the purpose when the depreciation fund should have been available to the company.

Again, the debentures were originally issued at 3½ per cent; but the rates seem to have been increased subsequently, the justification for which one cannot fathom. Mr. George told us a few months ago that the loans as they fell due had to be renewed at a higher rate than what then prevailed in the English market and that this renewal at the enhanced rate had not the assent of this State. The Financial Secretary in his budget speech last year also stated that we have no means of exercising any control over either the working expenses or the interest charges. This is indeed a deplorable position. In the circumstances, the taxpayers have a right to enquire how it is that the Government have no means of control, and the Government ought to relieve them of their anxiety by the publication of all the facts. It is highly satisfactory to see that the attention of the present Government has been drawn to the matter. Hope is expressed that a portion of the debentures falling due in August next will be renewed at easier terms of interest and that the sum of about Rs. ½ lakh due to this State for the years 1919 and 1920 has now been detected and credited.

Sir, I have not so far come across a contract which precludes a party from paying his debt before a fixed date and at the same time penalises him for not paying it sooner. Our case appears to be one of that sort. On the one hand, it is stated that we cannot redeem this liability before the year 1945, while on the other it is said that the loans had to be renewed at higher rates of interest before they actually fell due. The two things are inconsistent and demand a clear statement. To my mind, this State is bound to pay interest at 3½ per cent. only and the excess paid above that rate is over-payment. Rs. 76 lakhs out of the capital liability is said to represent advances made by the Secretary of State for India. The Administration Report for the year 1085 states that the advance made by the Secretary of State till then amounted to

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only Rs. 1,14,716. How this rose to Rs. 76 lakhs to-day is beyond my comprehension.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I wish to make a correction. When the advances made by the Secretary of State increased to Rs. 76 lakhs, there was a corresponding reduction under debentures, excepting of course for the rolling stock.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): This is the position that we are in now in this matter. I am extremely sorry that an excellent opportunity that arose in 1919 to wipe off all this burden with about a quarter of that amount when the securities fell in value and when the rate of exchange rose in our favour, was not availed of. I think that the Finance Department could have got out of this trouble by purchasing those securities in the open market at that time and becoming the holders thereof. We could have thus redeemed the liability with a comparatively small sum and all the interest that we would have been asked to pay would have come back to us. The Finance Member last year said that he had no information as to the fall in the price of the security, but later explained that he tried to get back the bond but dropped the matter because the Railway Company advised him to do so. Lack of funds is also pleaded as a cause for the non-redemption of the bonds; but the House must remember that, in the years 1092 and 1093 the State made investments in the Government of India securities to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs. It does not also appear that this exceptional opportunity was brought to the notice of the people. Even now, a sort of disinclination on the part of the Government is noticeable in the matter of purchasing those securities in open market. The sinking funds are all invested. A portion of the security is to come up for renewal in August next and the Financial Secretary hopes to renew it at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The loans recently raised by the Government of India carry a higher rate of interest and I cannot see how we are going to have easier terms. It has also to be noted that the nearer we approach the time of maturity the higher will be the value of the securities.

The above remarks that I have made would convince the House that the financial position of the State is not anything as sound as it is made out to be. The increasing expenditure of the State must be met by reliable and steady incomes and the Government must be on the look-out for the sources thereof. The one main source is the customs revenue. All possible efforts must be made to secure the maximum benefit from that source of revenue. The Interportal Convention is referred to as a stumbling block in the path of the development of customs revenue and several members on this side of the House have already pleaded for its modification. Apart from the question of a modification of the Convention, there is no shadow of doubt that both the Government and the mercantile community stand to gain by the direct importation to the Travancore ports of goods that are consumed within this

State. Already, there is an awakening amongst our mercantile community for this purpose. Organised effort is necessary for which the Government must co-operate with the people. A well-established Chamber of Commerce of the merchants of the State is the imperative need of the situation and the Government should encourage the formation of such a body by the offer of sufficient and timely help, pecuniary and otherwise.

It is very gratifying to note that the Government are not slow in materialising the scheme for a State-aided bank. An institution of that nature will, judging from the experience of Mysore and Baroda, help the development of credit and the supply of cheap money so much so that the internal and external trade will rapidly develop. But, for such development, the bank must possess sufficient resources. For this, apart from the Government support, popular support is also necessary. People cannot do this unless there is sufficient movement of money in the land. The Financial Secretary states that the money market here is tight. The report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies shows that even the banks charge exorbitant rate of interest. This state of affairs is, to my mind, mainly due to the regular drain of money from the State through different channels. The Government must help the creation of conditions which would prevent this outflow. There are, I am told, about forty life insurance companies registered outside Travancore carrying away large sums of money yearly from here as premium. If the State Life Insurance scheme is properly organised and developed and thrown open to the public, this drain can, to some extent, be prevented.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Sir the Government and this Council are at one in exploring all possible avenues for effecting retrenchments in expenditure wherever this can be done without affecting the efficiency of the public service. Therefore I beg to invite the attention of this Council to a suggestion by giving effect to which this object can be attained to a certain extent. The taluks of Devicolam and Peermade, as you are aware, form a separate administrative division with a Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate, a Division Assistant and two Tahsildars. I hope to show this is altogether unnecessary and avoidable. The taluk of Peermade till this year contained 11 *pakuthies*. The more populous western *pakuthies*, five in number, *viz.*, Kanjirapalli North and South, Manimala, Cheruvalli and Chirakkadavu have now been incorporated in the Changanachery taluk. The jurisdiction over Poonjar has been transferred from the Peermade to the Minachil taluk so that there remain now under the Peermade taluk only the *pakuthies* of Peruvantanam, Peermade, Periyar, Mlappara and Vandanmetu. Of these, Peruvantanam belongs to the Vanjipuzha Chief; practically the whole of the area comprised in the Mlappara *pakuthi* is reserved forest; the opened-up area of Vandanmetu is planted with cardamom, and the *pakuthies* of Peermade and Periyar with tea. It will thus be seen that the opened-up area of the taluk, even originally very much circumscribed and now further reduced by the

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removal of all the populous *pakuthies*, is inhabited only by a few planters and their employees. A Tahsildar with First class Magistrate's powers (as he is empowered at present) is more than ample for all reasonable purposes. Now that there is regular motor bus communication between Kottayam and Peermade, the distance between the two places can be covered in four hours even by a cooly. Under such circumstances, it is not too much to express the hope that the Peermade Division Assistant's place may be abolished and that the taluk may be placed under the jurisdiction of the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of Kottayam. This will mean a monthly saving of between Rs. 700 and Rs. 1,000.

Similarly with regard to Devicolam, which comprises nearly 625 square miles. Out of this area, 217 square miles are enjoyed by the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company, with practically sovereign powers. The remaining portion of the taluk consists mainly of reserved forest and useless grass lands and a few cardamom estates belonging mainly to the people of the neighbouring British District. Those who are familiar with the place have always been at a loss to know why an officer of the status of a Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate is posted there. A Division Assistant who, it may be conceded, should be a European, and the existing Munsiff-Magistrate and Tahsildar will be quite able to cope with all possible kinds of work that can arise there under any conceivable circumstances. The Commissioner of Devicolam who exercises the powers of a Dewan Peishkar over the Devicolam and Peermade taluks finds that the easiest and shortest route for him to reach Peermade is *via* Kotamangalam and Kottayam. The construction of a direct road connecting Peermade and Devicolam will be so difficult that it cannot materialise in the near future. For a small bit of road at the Devicolam end, which the European planters constructed mainly for their own purpose, our Government have undertaken to reimburse the planters the whole cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs in ten yearly instalments and this liability of our Government has not yet been liquidated. Therefore, for several years to come, it will be impossible for the Commissioner of Devicolam to reach Peermade except by the roundabout route above indicated. After all, there is very little work in either of these taluks which necessitates the presence of a Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate, and what little work there is of this nature could without the least inconvenience to anybody be easily performed by the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of Kottayam. These charges will mean a *net* annual saving of nearly Rs. 25,000 and ought not to cause any inconvenience to anybody.

Another subject which I would crave leave to call attention to is the supreme necessity for a far-sighted policy in dealing with the highlands of Travancore, comprised in the two taluks of Peermade and Devicolam. As is well known, 217 square miles of it have been long ago assigned in one block to one European planting-company. Another area

of 232 square miles has been practically alienated as catchment area for the Periyar lake. Extensive areas in other parts have been planted with rubber and tea by European capitalists. During the past two or three years, there has been some falling off in the demand for more lands in this locality. Now that the prices of rubber and tea have again gone up, the Financial Secretary hopes that the demand will again become brisk. If this process is allowed to take its course without any let or hindrance, one does not need any prophetic vision to assert with confidence that, in a few years' time, every inch of ground fit for plantation purposes will become the property of foreign capitalists. Land fit for human occupation is the most precious asset of a country—an asset which has to be safeguarded with extreme solicitude for the use of the present and future generations of the sons of the soil. In the United States which still contains millions of square miles of unoccupied lands, the Government have laid down a policy of the most rigorous conservation of the land resources of the country. Not only are the aliens who have no intention of becoming permanent citizens of the country prevented from owning any land in the country; not only are the citizens of the country not given more than 160 acres each, but active recourses are in contemplation for breaking up large estates which have long been in the possession of various people. Again, we know the policy which has been laid down for Kenya. 11,000 square miles of the highlands of the country have been set apart for less than 10,000 white settlers in the land. The ostensible ground for this policy is that the coloured races with their low economic standards if allowed unrestricted freedom with white men, will oust the latter from all desirable places in the country.

PRESIDENT: You should not deal with foreign politics here.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): I only gave an instance of what other people are doing. Now look at the position in Travancore. The people of this country when compared with European planters are absolutely insignificant in the matter of material resources. If our land is thrown open under such circumstances to all comers, the result is a foregone conclusion.

The population of Travancore according to the latest census is about 45 lakhs. The normal increase of population during each decade has been at the rate of about 17 per cent. If this increase is maintained, the time is not far distant when the people of this country will have no elbow-room. We have no colonies to plant our surplus population. Government is finding fault with the Revenue Department when the income from the sale of land shows any sign of diminution. Thus pressure is applied from both sides to exhaust the few thousand acres of unoccupied land which the country still owns. The British Empire contains no end of the best land in various parts of the world. If it is pointed out to them that what little land remains in this country ought to be conserved for the natural growth of our own population, surely the noble British Nation and Government will not take umbrage; nor will they misinterpret our motives. It has always been a surprise to

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me why neither our Government nor the leaders of public opinion in the country take a long view of this vital question.

On the other hand, our Government, while placing no limit to the extent of land that a planter can obtain in one block, has laid down that in assigning *puduval* lands, no one single individual should be given more than a few acres. The rules about timber value, etc., have also been so framed that it has become almost impossible for Travancoreans to secure even small bits of land. I trust that this subject will receive the earnest and immediate consideration of Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, the Financial Secretary has in his speech indicated the main lines of policy followed in the matter of collecting and spending the revenues; and he has also assured the House that the present year will be a successful financial year. No doubt, although there was a good deal of difficulty in realising the anticipations of the previous year, the action of the Government of India has given us a considerable sum of money by way of salt duty. I do not at all agree with the Financial Secretary in the opinion that that amount has been obtained by us without taxation. We got it by taxing a necessary of life. There is also the further fact that the taxing was done not by us but by the Imperial Government.

The financial statement, Sir, is not the place for the display of any sudden originality. I can very well understand the difficulty that financial officers find in putting their figures in a new form as each year opens out and the discharge of their onerous duties becomes imminent. I think that, of all the financiers in the Indian states, our Financial Secretary, Mr. George, is the person who indulges least in rhetorical devices. This year, however, he has put his point of view in a humorous fashion. I do not attach very great importance to the following sentence in Mr. George's speech : --

"Sir, it is a criticism commonly levelled against all budget-makers that by some mysterious sleight of hand they disguise rather than disclose the real state of a country's finance and that budgets as a rule serve only to bewilder and confuse the unwary public."

I do not attach any great importance to that sentence and I should not interpret it in the way it has been interpreted. It was only a method of stating the case in which possibly a man endowed with a sense of humour has given some vent to that propensity. (*Laughter*). In the same manner is the sentence that has been adverted to by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai :—

"The budget that I now present to the House is not a document mysteriously hatched in the secret recesses of the Government Secretariat but is one in the production of which both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured".

That again, Sir, is only a humorous piece of exposition. I do not think that the Financial Secretary means that all of us are going to take him

seriously and argue that he imported into it all the meaning implied in the words. The statement that the budget has been prepared by the joint labour of the Government and the representatives of this Council is only partly true. No doubt, on account of the difference between the votable and the non-votable items and also on account of the difficulties of balancing the budget and also in view of the G. O. appointing the Standing Finance Committee, it was not possible for Government to take action on suggestions made by the non-official members who represented this Council on the Standing Finance Committee. Sir, I am one of those who have always advocated that larger powers should be given to the Legislative Council, and urged that the representatives of the people should have a potent voice in the administration of the affairs of this country. But in the nature of the language used in the Government Proceedings appointing the committee, I do not think that I shall be justified in saying that the non-official members of the Finance Committee have the power to initiate any measure which involves an expenditure of funds.

I brought a book this morning for another purpose; but on hearing Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, I turned over the book and tried to remember what I had once learnt. I am referring to the *Government of England* by A. Lawrence Lowell, an authoritative book on politics:

"The procedure——————?'

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know which procedure it is? Is it the procedure in the House of Commons or in any committee that is referred to in the quotation?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It details the procedure in the House of Commons.

"The procedure in the case of financial measures differs in important respects from that followed in passing other bills. It will be remembered that, with some exceptions already described, all the national revenues are first paid into the Consolidated Fund, and then drawn out of it to meet the expenditures of the Government. The financial work of Parliament, like that of the administration, turns, therefore, upon the processes of getting money into and out of that fund. The second process comes first in the order of parliamentary business, and its nature is fixed by two standing orders which date from the early years of the eighteenth century. One of them, adopted in 1707, provides that the House will not proceed upon any petition or motion for granting money but in the committee of the whole House; and the other that it will not receive any petition, or proceed upon any motion, for a grant or charge upon the public revenue unless recommended from the Crown.

This last rule, first adopted by a resolution in 1706, and made a standing order in 1713, was designed to prevent improvident expenditure on private initiative. It has proved not only an invaluable protection to the Treasury, but a bulwark for the authority of the ministry".

Sir, as the learned author observes, it is one of the bulwarks against usurpation of the power of appropriating money for public expenditure by those who are not in office. I am certainly alive to the position and may say that, following the wise rule followed by His Highness the Maha Raja in giving us greater and greater powers, if there is a ministry created which will be responsible to this House, nobody in this House will be gladder than I am. But, if you recognise the difference between

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official and non-official views, you must look to the official for initiating measures and to the non-officials for the power of effectively criticising and watching the administration. I cannot subscribe to the position that at present your humble representatives on the Standing Finance Committee have got a right to initiate the financial policy of this State; and I would even go to the extent of saying that the Government itself will become unworkable. I should, therefore, say with due respect to my learned friend that although he spoke on behalf of the members of the Standing Finance Committee, on this question of constitutional importance I beg to take a view different from his.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I rise to a point of personal explanation. I never wanted any member of the Standing Finance Committee as such to take any initiative in regard to fresh schemes, because as a committee they have no constitutional existence. My only point was that the members of the committee should be given the option of initiating new schemes for the consideration of Government and of making suggestions to improve our revenue resources and to effect such retrenchments in the public service as may appear to them desirable. As the G. O. stands, *only such matters as are referred to it by the Government* may be considered by the committee. I went a step further and urged that the members of the committee should also possess the power of taking the initiative and suggesting further matters to be taken up for consideration. The difficulty pointed out by my friend does not really arise. I am quite aware of the fact that the Finance Committee is not a statutory body; nor has the non-official side of this House any power of appropriation of revenues on its own initiative.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai—

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai for an explanation because he is explaining to another who is in possession of the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The impression made upon my mind by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai by his speech, which fortunately happens to be in writing, was of the nature that I described to this House. It is for the House to understand it in the proper manner.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know from Mr. Velu Pillai, during how many meetings of the Finance Committee he was present.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, I think it does not arise here. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): If you permit me, I am prepared to answer him.

PRESIDENT: I have already ruled that it does not arise here. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I protest against such insinuating questions. I am very sorry that there should be a tussle between two of the members of the Finance Committee. There is no use whatever in encouraging the idea that the committee possesses more power than they actually possess under the constitution. I am thankful to the members of this House for electing to the standing Finance Committee and honouring me with the largest number of votes. But I would rather resign my seat on the committee than accept the position that the non-official members of the committee do possess the power of initiating expenditure. I am surely in favour of larger rights being conferred upon the Finance Committee but not in regard to the power of initiating measures which affect the finances. I have mentioned this in order to explain the position which was not clearly perceived by some of the members. I beg to be excused for taking up a portion of the valuable time of the Council for this purpose.

As to the points that have been raised with regard to the budget itself, I wish to associate myself with the previous speakers in observing that the money obtained by the sale of *puduvals* is no revenue. It is only the price of lands sold. money realised by selling inert, immovable land, in order to convert it into the shape of the circulating rupee. That is not a wise financial policy. In the same manner, it grieves me to find the Financial Secretary distantly hinting that the increase in the abkari revenue is a matter for some kind of satisfaction.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he ever said that.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I said he only hinted. (*Laughter.*) It is to him a matter for satisfaction that certain shops were resold. What had been predicted to be a deficit has come to be a surplus. That view, Sir, has been expressed by one of the most cautious officers in the service. (*Laughter.*) Therefore I am in order when I take advantage of the vagueness in which the matter is expressed. I shall be very sorry indeed if the Government believe that this is a sound policy.

One further matter I wish to mention is that the Forest revenue has been steadily decreasing. I am not in favour of thinking that forests exist in order that they may be merely conserved. It is a commercial department and it is the opinion of the greatest economists of the day that forests should be the means of giving revenue to the State; and the Travancore forests are magnificent forests. In spite of the carelessness with which our forests have been worked during several years past, they continue to be good; and if, as the Conservator says, he is not able to compete with Burmese merchants in the sale of teak, it is really because the Travancore Government has been raising the tariff value on teak unnecessarily and to the utter detriment of Travancoreans with the result that a teak scantling is very difficult to obtain. But I am not so conversant with the technique of timber sales as my friend the Conservator.

Regarding the expenditure, Sir, one point I wish to concentrate my attention upon is that the Government have been spending heaps of

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money in paying the salaries and allowances of officers. Sometimes, honorary officers are given honoraria and the posts indirectly converted into salaried appointments. As I observed on a previous occasion in this House, when one man is appointed as President of the Text Book Committee he is given an allowance; but when another succeeds he is not. The Secretary to the Public Library, the Director of the Museum and Public Gardens, each gets a monthly allowance. Other non-official secretaries who do equally difficult work do not get any. I have no complaint against persons getting money for their work. But the present system will lead to nepotism and will induce people to go and ask for so-called 'honorary' work in particular departments; and after some time they will be justified in asking for an honorarium for honorary work. I have got several years' accounts in my possession, and I find therefrom that, during all these years, the amount spent on salaries, allowances and contingencies has been increasing by leaps and bounds. All this is due to the circumstance that when schemes are submitted before Government by the heads of departments, the representatives of the people are not taken into confidence. Take any reorganisation or counter-reorganisation—

PRESIDENT: You have got only a minute more, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am sorry, Sir. I protest against the creation of new appointments and the lavishing of money upon these officers. With your permission, I wish to read a passage which will be certainly interesting and surely instructive. I beg your indulgence to allow the House to listen to it. I am also reading it with a useful purpose whatever may be the difficulties in effecting retrenchments in this matter at once. The passage is from Burke.

"The private enemies to be made in all attempts of this kind are so innumerable, and their enmity will be the more bitter, and the more dangerous too, because a sense of dignity will oblige them to conceal the cause of their resentment. Very few men of great families and extensive connections but will feel the smart of a cutting reform, in some close relation, some bosom friend, some pleasant acquaintance, some dear, protected dependant. Emolument is taken from some; patronage from others; objects of pursuit, from all. Men forced into an involuntary independence will abhor the authors of a blessing which in their eyes has so very near a resemblance to a curse. When officers are removed and the offices remain, you may set the gratitude of some against the anger of others; you may oppose the friends you oblige against the enemies you provoke. But services of the present sort create no attachments. The individual good felt in a public benefit is comparatively so small, comes round through such an involved labyrinth of intricate and tedious revolutions, whilst a present personal detriment is so heavy, where it falls, and so instant in its operation that the cold commendation of a public advantage never was and never will be a match for the sensibility of a private loss; and you may depend upon it, Sir, that when many people have an interest in railing, sooner or later, they will bring a considerable degree of unpopularity upon any measure. So that, for the present at least, the reformation will operate against the reformers and revenge will produce all the effects of corruption."

I have almost finished, Sir. I am sure, that the present administration will have the strength to override such difficulties. And I am

sure that in the near future the Government will be able to see that the number of these officers and their salaries are not unnecessarily raised. I am certainly not against giving higher salaries to deserving men, but I do not want so many officers as we now have.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, at the outset, I have to congratulate the Government on the circumstance that it has been possible to frame the budget for the coming year without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any material reduction in the normal expenditure. I feel bound to reiterate here what has been said by the Dewan in the Address to the Members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, on the 12th March 1923:

"It is a matter for gratification that Travancore has been able to emerge with such small deficits out of a period of universal economic crisis of an unprecedented magnitude in which almost every country in the world, including the various component parts of the Indian Empire, has had to budget for huge deficits."

I have also to congratulate the Financial Secretary and the members of the newly formed Finance Committee on the clearness and completeness with which the budget has been prepared.

The present budget session is, in one particular, different from the session that went before this. The fact that the learned members of the Finance Committee have, as the Financial Secretary mentioned in his speech, carefully and exhaustively scrutinised the whole budget should save much discussion and friction this session. It is gratifying to find that the view of Mr. George expressed in his last budget speech, that our financial outlook was not a gloomy one, has been confirmed by the present budget, and let us hope with him that "we have passed the period of acute depression and that more hopeful and prosperous times are in store for us".

The year opened with the usual anxiety of the Government to balance the budgeted receipts and expenditure—receipts which have swelled to the maximum limit of the taxable capacity of the burdened agriculturist and expenditure which in spite of stringent retrenchment had been kept at a high level due to the ever-growing demands of a progressive and efficient administration. But the Government have unexpectedly secured a large increase of money in their exchequer for which they are in no way responsible. The position of the governed in the increase of salt duty is indeed peculiar. The Government are not responsible for the doubling of salt duty. None the less, the heavily taxed Travancoreans, rich and poor, have to bear the burden of this increase of salt duty in the sanctioning of which they had no representation or voice. If convention requires that this should be imposed on Travancoreans as well, the Travancore Government owe, I believe, a duty to the Travancoreans on whom this double salt duty has been imposed. The Government ought to render pecuniary help to the people in every way possible. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention here that the Government are indeed conscious of this. Much help has been already given to the poor by way of fee concessions

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and by way of allotments made for the sinking of wells and opening of approach roads. My earnest prayer is that something more should be done to compensate the people for this increase of salt duty. The position will be easily solved by helping temperance, by the closing of a certain number of arrack shops or by reducing some other items which heavily bear upon the people, at least as long as this double salt duty prevails. A spirit of charity and justice requires this when an unexpected impost like this is unfortunately put on the people.

I am particularly grateful to the Government for the recent change made in the school-fee concessions to the depressed and backward classes in the State and to converts from those classes. (*Hear, hear.*) It has been said that this "school-fee concession policy has been based on a caste or communal basis and as such cannot be embraced with unmingled delight especially at this time when, in all civilised countries, attempts are being made towards the fusion of the various castes or classes". But, on a careful consideration, one would find that this concession has been given to certain communities, not only because they are backward in education but also on account of their general poverty. But, however, as there is insurmountable difficulty and delicacy in declaring the caste of certain poor children whose parents are of different castes or the caste of whose parents is not known, and as there is a considerable number of poor children even among the Nairs and Brahmins, it is but just that this concession should be given on the basis of poverty as well and not on birth alone. (*Hear, hear.*) I further strongly request the Government to extend the fee concession to the students of backward and depressed classes of all castes and creeds studying in the colleges as it is already done in the case of Mahomedans, since this would really serve to lift them in the social scale.

The arrangements made as a consequence of the Devaswom separation and the re-distribution of revenue and magisterial charges have now been working for the last one year and I think the Government should examine whether retrenchment is anywhere possible. As regards retrenchment I quite remember what has been said by the Head of the Administration on more than one occasion:

"So far as retrenchment is concerned, I may point out that the State has, of late, been steadily extending its nation-building activities, and it would not be wise to circumscribe them now. Retrenchment at any price is not a sound financial policy and there is a limit beyond which it may well cease to be economical and may lead to undesirable results".

This is what you, Sir, observed recently. The learned Revenue Commissioner may be asked to take up the question and examine the working of the new taluk offices. In this connection, I may also say a word or two in respect of a system of administration which I appreciate very much. We have at present, Munsiff-Magistrates at Shencotta, Kanjirapalli and Devicolam. There is the likelihood of a Munsiff-Magistrate being posted at Nedumangad also. The advantage of the system is obvious, for there are greater chances of criminal justice being administered by persons with a better judicial frame of mind. The

system may with advantage be introduced in other places where there are Additional Civil Courts and in places where Tahsildars are also exercising magisterial powers at present. My opinion is that thereby we can secure better administration of justice and also economise by combining certain taluks and placing them under a single revenue officer. If, due to such taluk amalgamation, the jurisdiction becomes somewhat unwieldy and extensive, Government may be pleased to give the Tahsildars in charge of such taluks some relief by giving them Assistant Tahsildars to co-operate with them in executive work, as the Division Peishkars are now given Division Assistants to help them in the *Jamabandi* work. The system will have the advantage of giving the superior officer the necessary help while affording adequate training to the subordinate officer who may, in course of time, be called upon to discharge these responsibilities in more extensive areas. I am of opinion that in some such way the staff of the Land Revenue Department may be reorganised and the subordinate administration remodelled.

Another subject of great importance is the pay and prospects of Magistrates, a subject to which I referred in my last budget speech as well. The pay of these Magistrates was fixed on the recommendation of the Efficiency Audit Officer. I must say that the latter, with all his liberality in recommending proper salaries to some grades of officers, was hardly fair to the Magistrates. Before the reorganisation, they were getting Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 per mensem, a scale which was higher than that of the Excise Inspectors, Sub-Registrars and Forest Range officers, at that time. Now, the pay of the Magistrates is fixed at Rs. 125 which is also the maximum pay of Excise Inspectors, Sub-Registrars and Forest Range officers. This is hardly just to an important branch of the judicial service. Their pay ought to be in keeping with the responsibilities and dignity of the place. Their pay should therefore be fixed at least at the scale allowed to Secretariat Superintendents, *viz.*, Rs. 140 to Rs. 175 per mensem. In this connection, let me say that, as the policy now adopted by Government is to separate as far as possible the magisterial functions from the revenue officers, if a fair proportion of the recruitment of the Magistrates is made from the Bar, I am sure we shall soon have a better class of independent and able Magistrates. I hope the learned members of this Council will support me in this aspect of the question to which I had occasion to invite the attention of the Government more than once.

In the budgeted allotment for education, I submit that more provision may be made for libraries and reading rooms. I have had occasion to observe the spirit of earnestness and enthusiasm for the development of libraries and reading rooms at the South Travancore Libraries Conference held at Nagercoil in Makaram last. A certain number of resolutions were passed indicating the lines of patronage sought for from Government and they were forwarded to the Government. I can submit that considerable dissatisfaction prevails because of the smallness of the sums doled out to reading rooms as grants. Any one who has observed the working of these institutions would admit that the

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grants now given are inadequate. To meet the demands of a larger number of such libraries year after year and the increasing demands of existing libraries due to their development and progress from time to time, it is incumbent upon the Government to allot increased grants as the times change for the better for them.

I now come to the question of allotments made for the depressed communities of the south. It is a matter for congratulation that a sum of Rs. 1,300 has been allotted for the sinking of wells and a sum of Rs. 3,000 for opening approach roads in the depressed classes centres of Nanjanad and Edanad. From a recent Government order it is seen that the sum of Rs. 1,300 will be distributed for sinking 13 wells at the rate of Rs. 100 for each well. My humble representation on behalf of the depressed classes, whose elevation must be the paramount consideration of a benign Government, is that the amount sanctioned is inadequate. There are numerous centres where adequate water-supply is a badly felt want; and it is necessary as a first step that at least 30 wells should be sunk in important places in Nanjanad and Edanad. As regards the amount sanctioned for each well, *viz.*, Rs. 100, it may be pointed out that it is also very insufficient. It is not possible, in some centres, in Edanad especially, to dig a well and do all the masonry work connected therewith for anything less than Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. On an average, a sum of at least Rs. 200 should be set apart for each well and the allotment for 13 wells should therefore be increased to a sum of Rs. 2,600. In discussing the budget estimate for two crores and odd rupees, it may not after all look very ennobling to plead for such small allotments under what might probably be considered unimportant items. But I beg to submit that the depressed classes have like Oliver Twist in the story, to repeat, "Please, Sir, I want some more". To these poor men the sympathy of Government will be a boon and an asset of real significance. I sincerely trust that the members of this Council will join with me in requesting the Government for an additional sum of at least Rs 1,300 under this head. That will be real charity indeed; and it behoves us to exercise some attention for the sake of these people whose humble lot must doubtless appeal to all.

The second item regarding the depressed classes is the opening of approach roads to their quarters. The subject has been represented to the Government on a number of occasions. Many approach roads have been sanctioned but the number actually opened has been only a few, much to the regret of this community. Government have now agreed to open the roads if the earth work is done by the members of those communities concerned. May I submit that it is really the earth work connected therewith that forms the bulk of the work? The depressed classes earn their livelihood by working in the fields from morning till evening and the reward they get is just enough for their daily maintenance. Under such circumstances, it is not fair to ask the poor Sambavars to do the earth work. The concession granted is

inadequate and I request that at least 50 per cent. of the cost of the earth work be given them.

I am sorry that no adequate or encouraging provision is made for the extension of the railway to the south. The Government are aware of the importance of this railway line and the positive income the State could derive from it. The Government have notified that the reconnaisance survey has begun. No definite information is forthcoming about its progress or completion. I need not say that this is a subject on which there is considerable feeling in South Travancore. I believe the Government will be only doing the needful if they let the people know more of it and expedite the work, at an early date, by making adequate allotments. What a blessing it would be to Travancore if the Railway line could, in the near future, be opened right through the centre of Travancore from the extreme south to the extreme north!

The allotment made for the construction of the Higher Grade English School for Boys, Nagercoil, is not adequate. It was about eleven years ago, in the year 1912, that it was found that the present school-building together with the site on which it stands was insanitary and unfit owing to the rapid growth of the town. The construction of the school was started in the year 1914 and it lingers on till now. Even the whole of the allotment made last year has not been spent as it is said that it is due to certain technical difficulties. The allotment for the year 1097 was Rs. 50,000 and for the year 1098 Rs. 30,000, but the allotment for the coming year is only Rs. 20,000. This is not sufficient. The defect which was meant to be rectified grows worse and worse with the growth of the town, and the health of the children is affected thereby. I request therefore that arrangements be made to complete the school as soon as possible.

One other point which I wish to bring before this House is the provision made in the budget for appointing an Assistant to the Head Translator. I need not mention here the importance the Government has to attach to Tamil and the Tamil-speaking population of this State. My prayer is that this officer be a qualified Tamil scholar.

I have to be grateful to the Government for sanctioning the construction of a labour ward in the District Hospital, Nagercoil—a want that has been seriously felt by us for a very long time. The citizens of Nagercoil being conscious of their obligation in this matter have already agitated through the Municipal Council to make sufficient provision for the upkeep and maintenance of a certain number of beds in the ward. I request the Government to construct this ward as soon as possible and also to appoint a lady doctor to this hospital as prayed for by us on several occasions.

It is not possible for me to describe the loss sustained and the difficulty experienced by the landholders at the tail end of the area commanded by the Kodayar channels. I am sincerely thankful to the Government for the steps they have kindly taken to remedy the grievances of these landholders. I fully trust that the schemes submitted by the special officer for the opening of distributary channels in the upper reaches

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of the commanded area and for the utilisation of the surplus and seepage water for the benefit of lands at the tail end, will, as soon as possible, be investigated and measures devised for utilising the water to the fullest extent. I sincerely hope with the Government that the system of local government recently introduced "in the matter of irrigation in the Kodayar area would be a source of all-round and far-reaching benefit to the ryots of that area to enable them to realise in full the manifold advantages to be derived from the project".

MR. C.P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Sir, in the general discussion on the budget last year, I remember to have made some remarks regarding the national wealth of the people of the State. Though I tried in several ways, I could not get at the figures bearing on the wealth of the people and the average income of the individual. The Census Report which was kindly given by the Government to the members of this House could not help me either. The Census Commissioner himself suggests that the economic survey of the country should be made separately and a permanent department of statistics instituted. These are his very words.

"No organised attempt had been made in the past to collect statistics of rice and and other food-stuffs grown in the country and the proportion of people served by them. The birth and death figures collected for the rural areas, where about 90 per cent of the population live, cannot be supposed to be accurate. The general Census as taken in India supplies information about the growth, civil condition, education, infirmities and occupation of the people. The special Census taken this time along with it in the State, gives the condition of labour, the volume of internal trade, the condition of cattle, the nature of cottage industries &c. Even these are not accurate as these were done by untrained and temporary staff. The most important of the Censuses, viz, the Census of the economic condition of the people, still remains to be taken. It is not possible to take this Census satisfactorily along with the other Censuses, but it has to be done leisurely in the intercensual period".

In another place he says:

"An up-to-date department of statistics has become a desideratum and it must be entrusted with the undertaking of the decennial census operations. In the interval it will have to take an economic survey of certain typical villages in the State and collect and publish annually all kinds of statistics, Agricultural, Industrial, Commercial and Vital".

Early steps will have to be taken to have such an economic survey conducted. In considering the question of taxing the people, a fairly accurate idea of what they are worth is necessary, and it would be nothing short of oppression to tax the people beyond their means.

From this general observation, I pass on to a brief discussion of the income side of the budget presented for the consideration of the House. The Financial Secretary in his able spech observed that the salt duty was doubled from last March and we get Rs. 4¾ lakhs for the five months of this year and about Rs. 7 lakhs for the 7 months of the next year. But for this unexpected income, the revenues of 1098 would have been Rs. 5 lakhs less, and 1099 will close with a deficit of 5 lakhs. As the income and expenditure of 1099 is balanced on the

windfall of the enhanced salt duty, it is seen that the finances are not built upon those steady and stable items of income. The Financial Secretary is not certain whether the enhanced rate of salt duty will continue after February 1924. It is really a heavy burden upon the poor people and it is taxing an article of everyday use just as necessary as water and air. There is no harm in making taxation heavy on luxuries; and so let us also hope that the salt tax will not continue after February 1924. It was raised, as we all know, to meet a special contingency of the Government of India and we may not have to meet any such contingency here. Hence I propose that this amount of about Rs. 12 lakhs should not be mixed up with the revenue but should be or should have been set apart for the special amelioration of the poor people.

In my speech last year, I referred to the hard *Puduval* Rules and expressed my fears that if they were not worked to the best interests of the people, the revenue expected under sale of Government lands during 1098 would not be coming in. My fears have been justified. The Financial Secretary in his speech says that the Government expect to realise Rs. 2 lakhs less under this head next year. Besides the reasons adduced by him, the hard *Puduval* Rules also acted as a deterrent. The *Taravila* is again enhanced now and it is fixed at Rs. 10 and Rs. 25 for dry and Rs. 50 for wet lands. All wet lands are not equally good and it is only just to fix the rates of *taravila* according to the quality of the land. The best lands have all been registered away already. What remains is mostly inferior lands. So, if the Government wishes to realise the revenue budgeted under this head the *Puduval* Rules should be framed and worked to the best interests of the people.

I wish to make a few remarks on the policy of Government regarding the maintenance of land records. The officers connected with the department are a bugbear to the people. Nobody is safe at any time. *Porambokes* may be found anywhere at any time and it can be shifted, increased or decreased according to the whim and fancy of the officer for the time being. What one officer finds as no encroachment, the second officer finds to be an encroachment to the extent of half a cent, and the third to the extent of 1½ cents. One wonders how the land records are so elastic. Where is the fixity then? An instance in point is my taluk which has an area of 1,28,000 acres according to the last settlement. I am informed, that when the lands were checked for the *Jamabandi* it was found that a few thousand acres are in excess. No satisfactory explanation was forthcoming till my departure from the station.

The temporary officers styled as Assistant Tahsildars are now placed under the L. R. M. Superintendent, which office is newly created. Now there are three departments connected with land records, *viz.*, the Survey Department, the newly created L. R. M. Department and the Revenue Department; and between these three, the result is, the people are troubled, the records become more and more elastic and confusing and nobody is sure about anything. Of course, imposing fines for encroachment on *Porambokes*, real or imaginary, is a

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source of income; but what I press is that this income is not worth having since it is obtained by unduly troubling the people.

Another source of income now and then resorted to, and which is to be condemned is the sale of grazing lands. At the last meeting of this Council, I moved a resolution requesting Government not to dispose of such lands since it threatens the safety of the cattle of the land. I was given the assurance that every effort will be made to preserve those lands for their original object. But now I understand that these lands are being inspected by *Jamabandi* officers for the disposal of such as are not absolutely necessary for grazing. I would in this connection request you, Sir, that the work of selecting lands to be disposed of, be allowed to be done after consulting the representative of the taluk.

When the budget was discussed last year in this Council, the policy of selling away timber in a hurry was criticised. The receipts from the Forests amounted to Rs. 15 lakhs in 1097, and this figure was put down as the revenue for 1098. There is a large decrease of Rs. 2 lakhs during the year. If a steady policy is not made and adhered to, what is budgeted for 1099 will not be realised. Besides the products now obtained from the forests, are there not any others which can be obtained and which would bring us some revenue? Now and then an officer is deputed to investigate the development of the forests. But that is not the result of any steady policy but of an attempt to make use of the services of an officer who has become supernumerary or who is not wanted elsewhere. In your address, Sir, to the last session of the Assembly, you said that the Forest College might be closed early in 1099. Then the services of a forest officer, set free from the College, may be available for investigation purposes. I do not know whether the Economic Development Board considered the development of our forests, except the application of Mr. Cox for the utilisation of the reeds of our forests for the manufacture of matches. For twenty years, it is reported, the reeds of our forests are to be given away free and no income derived from it.

The income from land customs has fallen by Rs. 2 lakhs, from Railway, Rs. 1 lakh, under Land Revenue 2 lakhs, under Income tax Rs. 20,000. Thus the income from five of the eight chief revenue-yielding departments is falling. Something is wrong somewhere. The heads of these departments as well as the Government should have a strict watch over the revenues of these to find out means of studying the income from the departments.

I am given to understand that 25 per cent. of the income from tea is to be taxed according to rules. It appears that no tax has yet been realised. I hope that the Government will take early steps and see that this income is realised and that from the date on which the Income Tax Regulation came into force.

The extension of the railway to Trivandrum was attended by a surplus income; but this has been gradually falling from Rs. 1¾ lakhs in 1094 to Rs. 1¼ lakhs in 1095 and Rs. 1 lakh in 1096. In 1097, a loss of Rs. 1½ lakhs was incurred and a loss of over Rs. 1 lakh is expected this year. Besides the reasons given by the Financial Secretary, I may be permitted to suggest that the recent increase of railway fares has also contributed its share towards this fall. The fare has been doubled with the result that many in Travancore, where there are other means of communication, do not make much use of the railway now. To mention only one instance, there is a bus service between Trivandrum and Quilon, profitable both to the owner and to the travelling public. Moreover, those who usually travelled in the first class do so in the second class now, and those who were travelling in the second class are obliged to make use of the third class. So, unless the fares are reduced, the income from this source is not likely to improve. Passengers who travel without tickets are many. If these and other matters are attended to more carefully, the income from this source is bound to increase. While on this subject, I may suggest that a larger number of Travancoreans should be recruited and trained for service in the railway as station masters, guards, drivers, signallers, overseers etc.

Another source of income is worthy of mention. The cash balances in our treasuries and the savings banks deposits etc., may be deposited in the State-aided Bank which is to be shortly started at Alleppey. This may bear interest, which will substantially augment our income. In these days of banking, drawing money whenever and wherever wanted is easily done. I hope this suggestion will engage the attention of Government.

Let me now turn to the expenditure side of the budget. Last year I drew attention to the paltry sum provided for opening new roads. Out of Rs. 34,500 sanctioned under this item a sum of Rs. 30,000 was for a road from Kumili to Devicolam which left only Rs. 4,500 for new roads in the other parts of the State.

Now I am glad to see that a better sum of Rs. 68,900 is provided in the present budget for new roads. This too is not adequate. At least the sum which may lapse this year may be set apart for new roads which are very urgently required in certain parts of the State.

The village roads for the repairs of which also money is provided in the budget seldom enjoy the visit of the P. W. D. officers with their tapes or the coolies with their spades and pickaxes. Many of them are mere water-courses, ruts or heaps of stones.

The minor irrigation works of central and north Travancore do not receive the attention they deserve. Many *elas* (fields) had head *chiras* or tanks which supplied water for cultivating the fields. Some of them are registered away. The canals or water courses by the side of many fields are getting lower and lower every year. This acts upon the productivity of the lands in two ways. The water necessary for the crops cannot be raised to the field level. Moreover the water of those fields is drained away to the canals so that the fields become poorer and

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poorer. If cross-bunds are constructed in such canals they will be filled up in course of time and better crops of paddy will be the result. Liberal grants should be provided for this and other works required for the improvement of the paddy fields of the country. The last Census shows an increase of 16·2 per cent. and 1911 Census above 16·8 per cent. in the population of our State. No where else is such an increase seen. The production of paddy, the staple food of the people, does not increase in proportion to the increase of population. The country is face to face with the serious problem of supply of sufficient rice. All attempts should be made to improve rice crops by improving the fields and by having recourse to intensive cultivation. The Government should therefore keep on the policy of allotting liberal sums for minor irrigation. Stinting expenditure on this item is trying to starve the people.

For keeping clear of deficits at the end of the year, we have to frame our budget so as to leave a margin for good balance. I have heard of a time when the balance reached the high figure of Rs. 1 or 2 crores. Also, we should try to effect retrenchments wherever possible, without impairing efficiency. The period of training of undergraduates was reduced to one year; but no reduction of staff has hitherto been made on this account. The posts of Assistant Superintendents in the Police Department, Sub-Inspectors in the Excise Department and some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners and the Assistant Tahsildars can be done away with. I am sure that the House feels with me that efficiency will not be impaired by the abolition of these posts.

Travancore is a non-industrial State. The Department of Industries is in its infancy. Still it has a big staff. Several so-called experts were trained at Government expense in India and in foreign countries and they are given fat salaries. Government have already found that some of the lines of investigation were fruitless; and they have abolished them and the services of those experts are now utilised in other departments. The Shellac Expert is a teacher in the Education Department. The Oil Expert is going to be a teacher, they say. The Bee Expert is not producing any honey worth mentioning.

The people of this country are expecting great things from the Industries Department and are looking to the remaining experts to see what new measures or profitable lines they are going to open. Instead of wasting public money on useless and costly experiments of doubtful success, well-considered plans should be adopted and experiments made along useful lines, especially in developing the resources of the country and producing finished products out of the raw materials available here.

For training mechanical overseers and fitters, the Sri Mulam Technical School was opened three years ago. Government propose to spend, in 1099, Rs. 11,149 for training nine overseers and some fitters. Two batches of overseers and fitters are turned out with diplomas. Most of these are without work now. The result is, there is only one

student to attend the Overseers' Class. The Director has now published notices in the newspapers inviting applications for the classes to begin on the 5th of August and the rate of fees is reduced by half. Before we leave this House this time, we shall see how many students are going to attend this school. When it is found that no pupils are coming, the school will have to be closed. This is the fate of one of the institutions started only three years ago to develop the industries of the State.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that there is no other non-official gentleman who wishes to speak in connection with the general discussion of the budget?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, some of the distinguishing features of the new budget are (1) a good round sum allotted as leave allowances to the several departments, (2) though small amounts, increases made under "repair", (3) similarly increases under "office expenses"; and (4) increases made under "miscellaneous" in almost all departments. Though they are small sums when taken separately, these items consume a good deal of our revenue and I most emphatically oppose this policy in the budget. Some departments claim hot and cold weather charges, while some prefer only cold weather charges.

On the side of expenditure, the arrangements have been arbitrary and that fact can be seen from comparing the funds allotted for Education, and P. W. D. which get increased allotments of Rs. 3¾ lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs respectively. Rs. 2¾ lakhs provided for leave allowance, Mr. George says, is only a tentative measure and a considerable portion of it will lapse. In another part of his speech it is said that a portion of the increased allotment of Rs. 2 lakhs under P. W. D. will be reserved for utilising when unforeseen expenditure comes in. I think these items can be safely expunged from the budget.

In the Education side, much of the amount is destined to be paid to teachers. A reduction in the number of the teaching staff in the Arts College is a long-felt want which the Government have not been pleased to look into. Most of the professors and lecturers in the College are passing their days without sufficient work.

In the P. W. Department, works useful to the public at large are left in abeyance without any inconvenience or trouble to Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Sub-Engineers, Supervisors and Overseers. It is said that a very large portion of the budgeted amount for this year remains unexpended under P. W. D. If it is so, what were the host of P. W. D. Officers doing? In this connection, I cannot but repeat one sentence from my last year's speech on the general discussion of the budget.

"These P. W. D. Officers having much less work to do will be spending their time in a gallant fashion. This is not a thing which the tax-payer can witness without emotion".

In the light of the above view a good number of P. W. D. Officers can be dispensed with without any detriment to efficiency.

[The Rev. Father Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

Similarly a good number of Assistant Superintendents of Police and a couple of Inspectors can be safely dispensed with in the Police Department.

Of late, the Excise Department has grown unwieldy with a number of Assistant Commissioners and Inspectors who have little work to do. Practically speaking, these were created by way of ornament to the Department and to the Commissioner.

The Agricultural and Industrial Departments, I must say, do little work. These two departments have got a good number of experts and specialists in stock. In spite of their special skill, the Agricultural Department has not yet been able to introduce any new kind of cultivation or demonstration in the country. Government have expressed their opinion once, by way of an answer to an interpellation by me that the Department has been working to improve the existing cultivation. But it is not so. Cultivators have not yet benefited by the so-called demonstrations. Similarly, the Industries Department also possesses a large number of experts such as the Pencil Expert, the Shellac Expert, the Oil Expert. The public are at a loss to know where these so-called experts are working and with what result.

I cannot close my speech without touching upon a curious department of the State which invites a lot of public criticism. That is the Department for the Preservation of Oriental Literature. I call it curious, because it is a department in which there is none who knows Malayalam and Tamil. Do not Malayalam and Tamil come under Oriental literature? Certainly they do. Curiously enough a sum of Rs. 1,000 is allotted in the budget for 1099 for publishing Malayalam and Tamil manuscripts by a staff and a Curator who cannot understand those languages. I hope this Council will consider the above mentioned defects when the demands for grants are made.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Sir, by way of some general remarks on the budget, I beg to say that expenditure under education is rising by leaps and bounds. Next year Government proposes to spend about Rs. 4 lakhs more on education than it did in the current year. Every well-wisher of Travancore should be glad to see that our State does not grudge spending almost one-fifth of its total revenues on the education of its people. From a close study of the past, we see, that this rise began with the introduction of Dr. Mitchell's educational policy which dealt a death-blow to private enterprise. It is an acknowledged fact that Travancore owes a great deal of her present high position in the matter of education among Indian States to the efforts of private agencies. Thanks to the altered policy of Government, private institutions are now given a freer hand and a fairer treatment. But I regret to say that they are not receiving that amount of sympathy and encouragement which is commensurate with the great work they are doing. According to the latest statistics published by the Government, out of the grand total of 4,02,181 school-going children

in Travancore, more than one-half, *viz.*, 2,01,801, are receiving instruction in private institutions and that the *net* expenditure to Government on this account comes to only Rs. 4,68,891. The grant given to primary schools, notwithstanding the recent enhancement by 25 per cent. cannot be considered an appreciable aid. Government have to be congratulated on the fee concessions they have generously granted to the depressed and backward classes irrespective of their creed. I have to point out that, while helping these classes, Government have placed a new burden upon the aided schools making them forgo one-fourth of the fees with which these institutions have been maintained. It is hardly fair that such liberality should be extended at the cost of institutions which are almost struggling for existence.

I beg also to point out that one of the chief objects aimed at in the establishment of private schools is the imparting of religious instruction to the adherents of the several persuasions maintaining these institutions. The world is coming to realise more and more that education without religion is a failure in every respect. Therefore the placing of any bar in the way of religious instruction in private schools will defeat its object and tend to discourage private enterprise. A charge is sometimes brought against private institutions that they are inefficient. But the results of public examinations not only give the lie to such charges but prove that these institutions work better than departmental ones. I therefore beg to suggest, with a view to stop this abnormal rise in the expenditure on education, that a freer hand should be given and a fairer treatment accorded to private agencies than is done now.

I am sorry, Sir, I have again to bring to the notice of the Government the step-motherly treatment that is meted out to the northern taluks of the state in the matter of communications. Representations have been made *ad nauseum* of this crying want, by the members of this House as well as of the Popular Assembly from north Travancore. The Dewan, in his reply to the member from Todupuzha, one of the taluks I represent, said as follows at the last session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly:

"I find that the allotment for the development of communications in your taluk is insufficient. I will take steps to increase that allotment".

But to my great surprise, I see in the present budget a *minus* instead of a *plus* amount allotted for this purpose, as the last budget had an allotment of Rs. 24,700 while the one for the next year provides only Rs. 19,000. This is the unkindest cut of all. What I consider still worse is that these allotments made year after year are more paper allotments than reality.

Coming to the extension of railways, it is admitted on all hands that the Kottarakara-Alwaye line is a great desideratum. In this connection the Dewan said at the last session of the Assembly:

"The preliminary survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line will not take more than 3 or 4 months. As soon as that is over, the reconnaissance of the other line will be started."

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

This period is long past and I have been searching in the present budget to find whether any allotment has been made for this purpose. To my great astonishment, I find that no mention whatever is made about the proposed reconnaissance. This, I suppose, means that nothing will be done in the coming year in the matter. Need I say, sir, what a great disappointment this will be to the people of north Travancore?

Out of Rs. 2 crores budgeted for expenditure during the coming year, a large slice goes in the way of salaries, etc., to officers. All Travancoreans are His Highness' subjects and all contribute to the State exchequer. But when there is a want of sense of proportion and a diffferentiation of treatment as between the different castes and creeds such treatment must necessarily cause heart-burning. Until recently, the Land Revenue Department was a preserved for the privileged classes. The number however admitted to that Department since then is nothing to speak of. In the higher ranks of the Land Revenue as well as in the other departments, non-caste Hindus, Christians and Mahomedans are not sufficiently represented. As regards the inferior service, the representation of the above communities is almost negligible. Circulars have been from time to time issued by the Head of the Administration in this matter. But they seem to be honoured more in the breach than in the observance. I must not be misunderstood as saying that efficiency should be sacrificed for communal interests. All that I plead for is equality of treatment to all communities without in the least impairing efficiency in the several services. Then alone will peace and contentment reign among the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, which is the goal the Government aim at.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M.

The Council re-assembled at 3-8 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, Mr. George has again come up with a budget estimate which he has presented with the coolness of a veteran. He is decidely of better cheer this year and I take it as an indication of his consciousness that there is considerable improvement in the financial outlook since he presented the last year's budget estimate. No doubt he was optimistic even last year, though his optimism then was hedged round with a number of warnings and demands for economic use of the State fund and scrupulous carefulness. To quote his own words:

> "Thus, while there is nothing seriously grave or alarming in our present financial position, there is the clear necessity that, in order to meet the increased demands of the future, we should exercise strict economy in expenditure and effect all reasonable retrenchments which would not impair the efficiency of the essential services, while endeavouring at the same time to improve our revenue resources."

Some of us who were not so stout of heart as Mr. George had the temerity to question the groundwork of his calculations last year and in the light of subsequent happenings we find that our apprehensions

were not unfounded, though Mr. George even now claims to have triumphed over us and maintains that he has the upper hand by what he calls a windfall. The windfall referred to is obviously the result of the financial experiments conducted upon sodium chloride by the Delhi Government. (*Laughter.*) Certainly, referring to this, Mr. George even now tells us that his optimistic views expressed last year have been confirmed this year. If Mr. George means thereby that he had this windfall in his mind when he prepared the budget estimate last year, then I daresay that his powers are more of the silent class and not of the express and articulate variety.

Sir, the principles that Mr. George steadily kept in view in the matter of preparing the budget, as may be seen from the quotation I placed before the House, are two in number, *viz.*, firstly to retrench as far as possible and secondly to keep steadily in view the efficiency of the departments concerned. Now there is one aspect of the matter to be taken into consideration in this connection. That is with respect to the question whether the various services engaged in the matter of collecting the revenue due to the Government are really doing their work as best as they possibly can under the circumstances, *i. e.*, the receipt and revenue side of the budget. For my part I doubt whether they do as much as they ought to do.

With respect to the operations of the Income Tax Department, I called for some information from the Secretary to the Legislative Council under standing order No. 72. But my friend Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar tells me that the information that I sought to elict is not covered by that standing order, though to my reading it certainly applies. Irrespective of that, the informal information that I sought and obtained with respect to the Income Tax Regulation enables me to make the statement that the South Indian Railway Company is not taxed in Travancore with respect to its income. They have got business transactions within the territory of Travancore; and if any doubt is entertained by the Income Tax Commissioner or by the legal advisors of Government, I would draw the attention of my learned friends to the ruling of the Calcutta High Court reported in *27, Calcutta Weekly Notes, 34*, which says that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is liable to be assessed with respect to some of their earnings and the Calcutta High Court has accordingly ruled that the assessment should be collected from them.

PRESIDENT: You are arguing a particular case of assessment of income-tax, which, I may say, is not before the House.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What I am pointing out is that the South Indian Railway Company are escaping the assessibility to income tax in Travancore and that the revenue officers who are responsible for the collection of income tax are not doing their duty properly. I am quoting the case as an illustration.

PRESIDENT: But the budget itself shows that the South Indian Railway Company is working at a loss so far as Travancore is concerned.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So far as their earnings in Travancore are concerned, they are liable to be assessed.

PRESIDENT: It is on that portion that there is a deficit. That includes the working charges and the remuneration for running the railway for the Travancore Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): They are liable to be assessed with respect to their remuneration.

PRESIDENT. However, it is a particular case which has got to be examined elsewhere.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very glad that it is under the consideration of the Government.

Then I go further and take up the case of Posts and Telegraphs with respect to income tax. I asked—

PRESIDENT: You will have to ask for all that information by means of interpellations.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I applied for information to the Secretary. My submission is that they should be taxed. (*Laughter*). For, they are only business concerns conducted by the Secretary of State for India for profit and gain. Viewed in that light, my submission is that he is also liable to be taxed. Then there are other persons also who should have been taxed; but I see that, by a notification published under section 43 of the Income Tax Regulation, they have been exempted. I think the exemption covers the case of the British Resident and Assistant Resident. So much so by virtue of the exemption granted by the Government they are not liable to be taxed. So much with respect to the Income Tax Regulation.

With respect to the question of land revenue, you, Sir, when you addressed the nineteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and when you wrote the Administration Report for 1097, deplored that the land revenue collection is much in arrears. That again is certainly a very bad symptom. Because our land revenue is one of the invariable items of revenue that we could reckon upon. Administration Report pages 10, 11 and 12 may be referred to in this connection. On page 10 it is stated as follows:

"The percentage of collection under current demand fell from 98·3 in 1096 to 96·2 in 1097".

And then you observed that the Land Revenue Commissioner had been asked to ascertain why the collection of Land Revenue had gone down considerably. So, even with respect to that, we find things are not quite satisfactory. There may be other instances in which such criticism is possible.

But, passing on to the question of expenditure, matters are more serious, though all possible retrenchments, Mr. George promised us, would be made. Now there is internal proof in the Administration Report

and also in the budget estimate that the expenditure is capable of very serious and further retrenchments. With respect to Taluk Cutcherries we see that about 131 Accountants and nearly 299 peons have been removed *en bloc* to the Survey Department and yet the collection of land revenue goes on as smoothly as ever. Necessarily it follows from this fact that the retention of 131 Accountants in the various *pakuthies* and the corresponding number of peons—about 299—is a superfluity in the Land Revenue Department. Otherwise, the work of collection could not have been carried on so smoothly and satisfactorily as it is at present.

PRESIDENT: You said only a minute back that the work of land revenue collection was not satisfactory.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ampalapuzha*): That is only a portion, about four per cent.

PRESIDENT: I am only drawing your attention to what is apparently inconsistent.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am just placing before the Council the Government's position. As to the neglect in the matter of collecting the land revenue, it is not the fault of the system that brought about a fall in the collection. But it is the slackness of the Tahsildars that has been pointed out and the explanation has been called for with respect to that. If as a matter of fact the removal of 131 Accountants and a corresponding number of peons had been the cause, certainly they must have been restored to the Land Revenue Department. That is not the real underlying cause. The cause is entirely different. Then with respect to the work of the Tahsildars, a number of observations may be quoted from the Assembly Address and also passages from the Administration Report to show that they had not been doing any serious work at all. In view of the Devaswom work as also the criminal work having been taken away from the Tahsildars—and recently the Maramat work has also been taken from them—the phenomenon that these people continue to do as little work as ever is simply surprising. There is yet another matter to be also mentioned. There is another body of Tahsildars called Assistant Tahsildars seriously brought into existence in the year 1096. (*Laughter*). These people were asked to do certain duties at a time when the Tahsildars were overburdened with all manner of works. Now that those works have been removed from the Tahsildars' shoulders to a very considerable extent, the question arises whether the employment of Assistant Tahsildars is a real necessity.

With respect to the Magistracy also, we see in the Administration Report—pages 41 to 45—that Government deplored that the Magistrates did not turn out the necessary amount of work. Going further on to the Civil Courts and the Sessions Courts there is also seen the fact that year after year the appointment of additional hands is insisted upon. From all these, the legitimate inference to be drawn is this, that the efficiency of the service is hardly a factor kept in view by the Government in spite of the Financil Secretary's statemet to the contrary.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

If, as a matter of fact, as regards the number of persons now requied for civil administration and criminal administration as well as revenue collection there are a sufficient number of persons competent to do their work, the question arises how year after year all the heads of departments including the High Court have demanded additional hands to do the work. (*Hear, hear*). So my humble view of the situation is that, in spite of the repeated assertion made by Mr. George and probably those who supply information to Mr. George and to Government also, the fact is very clear that the efficiency of service is a factor which exists only in talk and is never seriously taken into consideration by Government. In view of that fact, what I further beg to submit is that the revision of salaries and allowances and scarcity grants and all manner of coddling treatments that these services receive at the hands of Government seem absolutely out of place. It has practically become a proverb that the rule in Travancore in the matter of appointments is that there is an amount of initial difficulty in getting an appointment. But when once you get into the service it is equally difficult to get you out. That seems to be the idea entertained by these officers. A very large number of them do not care whatsoever with respect to the duties that appertain to their offices. So, a thorough examination and scrutiny of the work of the various officers employed in the various departments is essential and the sort of airy explanation received from departmental heads, including the High Court, with respect to the remissness of the work observable in the lower ranks should not be simply recorded but should be followed by some painful experience. Thus with respect to this question of the services, neither retrenchment nor the point of efficiency that has repeatedly been raised by Mr. George, I submit, is steadily kept in view.

I raise another question. We see two hundred lakhs of rupees raised by revenue and nearly as much spent also year after year. Looking at the expenditure, one is surprised that the result of the sweat of the brow of the taxpayer crystallised into money and collected by the Government is spent not so much to the advantage of the taxpayer as to keep up a body of officials in the State. What, after all, is the portion of the entire collection that goes to the benefit of the taxpayer? That is a question that the Government has to take into consideration. In a way two or three departments are run for the benefit of the taxpayer *i. e.*, the Education Department, the Medical and Sanitary Departments in a faint way (*laughter*), since there is a complaint of paucity of medicine available there; and then the P. W. Department whose proceedings though too gaudy upon paper do not seem to correspond to actual achievements. For, in spite of our opposition in regard to the question of grant to the P. W. D., Mr. George and the other gentlemen on the official side were very particular that the grant originally budgeted should be allowed and by all manner of earnestness we got only a small portion cut out of it and we were under

the impression that any further reduction would hit the people themselves. But what the P. W. D. did was to surrender a portion of the money and allow some portion to lapse. For these circumstances, it has to be said that the professions of the P. W. D. are maintained only either on paper or before the Council and not really maintained in the actual work. So when it comes to the actual benefit derived by the ordinary taxpayer, there is an amount of gloom visible, so far as the people are concerned.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid your time is up.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I commenced at—

PRESIDENT: Five minutes after three o'clock according to my time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is still two minutes more according to the clock.

In regard to the question of fee concession we are going to allot about Rs. 50,000. The entirely wrong principle underlying that item in the budget has been adverted to, by my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyangar. The depressed classes and the backward classes certainly deserve very kind and sympathetic treatment; but in Travancore sympathetic treatment shown in one direction seems to give room for pushing that principle in every other direction as well. However, in the case of the depressed classes, we see they have got fee concession; they have got advantageous concessions in the matter of *puduval* registry; and they press now that they should be given their meals. They contended that the Land Acquisition Regulation should be put into operation and properties acquired and houses put up for them. Probably they would urge next that the marriage expenses, including dowry if any, of the females of their community should be borne by the State. I have been going through your replies to the representations made at the Assembly and find that you have been extremely sympathetic to the depressed classes. I am glad of it. But they should be distinctly told that there is a distinct limit to the indulgence shown to them by the State. Further, on what principle is the fee concession based? Is it upon the question of poverty? There is nothing like communal poverty. Probably, in the case of *Pulayas* and *Parayas*, we may raise that presumption unless the contrary is proved. But in the case of other communities, such as the Ezhava and other important communities, to start with a presumption that they are poor is certainly unwarranted. They have themselves to prove that they are poor. In such cases, the policy of the State in granting fee concession does not appear to be sound. Further when it comes to the question of entertainment in the Government service, they claim equality with other communities and do not admit they are backward in any thing. Let there be equality all round. Government in its overflow of sympathy is occasionally tempted to accept inconsistent pleas. At this rate, the whole machinery of fee concession would be brought to an abrupt standstill and nobody would be benefited thereby.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, the budget presented to the House for consideration has all the merits and demerits of its predecessor. In my budget speech last year, I took care to point out that our financial outlook is gloomy, that the moral and industrial advancement of the people has been left unattended to, that no advantage is taken of the financial position to inaugurate comprehensive schemes of State action for improving the condition of the masses and that relentless retrenchment in establishment alone will create a surplus to liquidate our debts and to embark upon new schemes of progress and expansion. I feared at that time that our expectations of revenue might be shattered, but that our expectations of expenditure would be amply fulfilled. It can be seen from the memorandum appended to the budget that that forecast was almost correct and we were saved from deficit by the accidental enhancement of salt duty, by subtle manipulation in calculating the salaries of officials and by the curtailment or withholding of expenditure of certain spending departments. I must congratulate the Government for the cautious conversion of a deficit budget into a balanced one by feats of financial calculations. I am afraid that the same procedure will have to be adopted at the end of next year to prepare a balanced budget if the Government do not find ways and means of reducing expenditure and of augmenting the revenue. The appropriation of Rs. 2½ lakhs for leave allowances which was hitherto met from savings or treated as inevitable charges and not covered by budget grant at all is perhaps meant for balancing the budget next year. Though Government deserve congratulation for making both ends meet by various means, it cannot be denied that they are not able to set apart a substantial reserve for unforeseen expenses and to provide for reproductive works.

Mr. George has become optimistic about our financial outlook after the examination of the financial position for the past ten years. But the figures which he has disclosed in the budget and in his speech have not inspired us with the same cheer. The huge debt which hangs like the sword of Damocles over the State, the swift inflation of the liabilities and the gradual enhancement of ordinary expenditure make me feel that we are forging ahead to bankruptcy.

In fact, the liabilities of the State have increased to an enormous extent. Our original liability on account of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway which amounted to Rs. 118 lakhs has now increased to Rs. 133½ lakhs mainly on account of the purchase of rolling stock. The railway which ought to be a source of profit to the Government is devouring a good lot of our money and is theratening us with bankruptcy. This debt could have been liquidated in 1917 with one-third of the amount when the exchange rate was low if the State was sufficiently vigilant to purchase the bonds in the market. The Financial Department excuses itself by saying that the loan was raised by the Home Board of the South Indian Railway Company and that it had no information and no means by

which it could obtain information regarding the fluctuations in the London Market. If the Government had seriously thought of liquidating this liability, they could easily have negotiated with a broker in England to purchase the bonds as any private person in open markets. When our liability is on the increase every year, when the profits of the railway are not sufficient even to pay the interest on the loan and when we are setting apart a good sum annually to pay compensation to the Company, I fail to understand how the Government propose to reduce the amount of the sinking fund from next year forwards. The Financial Secretary has wisely refrained from suggesting any remedy if the liability is added to later on. The reduction of the contribution to the sinking fund next year is, in my opinion, a financial blunder. The amount now set apart for leave allowances could very well be invested in sinking funds. If we are able to hoard sufficient money to pay off the liability before 1945, we will have to congratulate ourselves for removing an ever-troubling nightmare. The financial outlook is not only gloomy but is also threatening. Even balanced budgets for a good number of years will not solve this difficulty.

Mr. George consoles himself that:

> "Our State has so far, by its cautious and prudential policy, escaped the common fate of most other Governments and has been able to balance its budgets without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure".

But it is to be clearly understood that this State has not embarked upon any large schemes to sustain a deficit. If we lead a hand-to-mouth existence for some time, we can congratulate ourselves that we have no deficits. But for the enhancement of the obnoxious salt duty, we could not have rest contented with our budget. That duty has saved us from deficit and induced us to increase the expenditure in various directions.

I am at a loss to understand the Financial Secretary when he says:

> "The Government have been able without undue strain to carry into effect a much needed revision of the salaries of the subordinate services and also to embark on various new schemes of progress and the expansion particularly in the departments concerned with the moral and material development of the country".

Hitherto the one complaint against the Government was that they were totally neglecting the moral and material interests of the masses. What have the Government done to redress the evils of unemployment? Government had no money hitherto to inaugurate large industrial schemes. If the present financial policy is to be continued, the Government will never be in a position to develop the industrial activities of the State. We have agricultural, industrial and scientific departments. These departments are in a stage of experimentation and whatever may be their potentialities in future, the people are not convinced of their full utility at present. When a member of the Popular Assembly represented that the promotion of industries was the only means of augmenting the State's wealth, the Dewan's reply was that the question whether Government should itself start industries and work them or whether Government should only do a certain amount of demonstration and

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

encourage private industry was a very large question to which the Government could not give a categorical or definite answer. We can have no programme or policy for industrial regeneration unless and until we are able to command funds. Our State has lost very many golden opportunities of embarking upon large industrial schemes. The one scheme into which the Government entered heart and soul, *viz.*, the railway, has landed them in an awkward position from which they are wriggling to back out. The Government have given concessions to Mr. Desikachari for starting the match industry, by which the Travancore Government would lose a considerable sum on account of the value of timber alone. If Government had money they could have started their own match factory. Last year, we were discussing the question of mortgaging the hydraulic rights in the Kallar valley to a foreign company because we are not in possession of sufficient funds to work the scheme. We have given away our rights in monazite and ilmenite to foreign companies as our Government cannot help the industry any way. The Travancore Government have not helped the moral and industrial activities of the people in a way which deserves mention in the Financial Secretary's speech.

We have reached the bedrock of taxation in the country. The direct and indirect taxes imposed upon the people are operating heavily against the masses. The only way of developing the nation-building and industrial activities of the State is to tap new sources of income. Last year, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar pleaded for an early revision of the Interportal Trade Convention of 1865; and the people's representatives in the Popular Assembly have since then requested the Government to negotiate with the Madras Government for the alteration of the terms of the Convention. Undoubtedly, our population and standard of living have increased to a remarkable extent since 1865. Our imports have also increased 3,000 per cent. Under the circumstances, our import duty would roughly come to Rs. 15 lakhs every year. I am glad to understand that this question has engaged the serious consideration of the Government.

Another way of enhancing our revenue is by appropriation of duty on tea for our own purpose. It is not clear why Travancore pays back the major portion of the duty on tea to the Madras Government. The duty realised and the amount paid to the British Government during the last three years will show how much money we are losing on that account.

Year	*Duty realised.*	*Amount paid to the British Government.*
1095	Rs. 3,36,988	Rs. 1,13,752.
1096	Rs. 2,83,523	Rs. 2,34,315.
1097	Rs. 2,91,997	Rs 1,97,544.

This duty which entirely belongs to us is now shared by the British Government also. If the Government will negotiate with the British

Government for relinquishment of the share therein there will be a perpetual saving of Rs. 2 lakhs every year.

Thirdly, our revenue can be increased by revising the agreement which our Government have concluded with the Kannan Devan Planters. The Kannan Devan Hills comprise a lakh and fifty thousand acres of land. By the original agreement, the planting company was bound to pay a tax of 8 annas per acre of cultivable land within 24 years and 2 annas 8 pies per acre of grass land. This agreement has been subsequently modified and now the company pays tax for the area actually cultivated, and Government are realising tax only for forty thousand and odd acres. If the agreement is still further modified and the usual tax levied on *puduval* lands is realised from the planting company, the Government can realise at least an additional sum of one lakh of rupees from that source.

Lastly, there is the agreement with the South Indian Railway Company. Though the State spent its own money to construct the Trivandrum-Quilon line, we have to incur a steady loss every year. The Financial Secretary says that there is no reason to anticipate any large improvement in traffic earnings or any material reduction in the working expenses. We incurred a loss of Rs. 1½ lakhs in 1097 and are expecting a loss of Rs. 1 lakh in 1098. This year, in reply to a representation on railways, made in the Assembly, the Dewan stated:

> "You have referred to what you considered to be the unsatisfactory position of the State in regard to its railways, and have stated that Cochin has been able to modify the original arrangement it had with the South Indian Railway Company in regard to its railway. I am not aware that any such modification has been made. As a matter of fact, the position of Cochin is altogether different from ours. The Cochin State owns its railway now, and only its management and working are with the Railway Company. That is not the case with Travancore. Only eight days ago I had a talk with the Comptroller of Accounts and I asked him what sort of power they had in regard to the railway. He said: "We have absolutely no powers. The Railway administration send us returns annually or half-yearly." That does not, however, mean that we should keep quiet and not try to effect changes for the better. But effecting changes in matters which have been finally settled once is not easy."

It will be conceded by all that modification of treaties and conventions is not very easy, and the resources of the State cannot also be increased by easy means. In addition to the revision of the agreements, the imposition of tax on rubber, the improvement of ports in Travancore, and the inauguration of reproductive works will also improve the finances of our State.

Only now we are told that Government have participated in the Cochin Harbour scheme and contributed Rs. 3 lakhs. The rising of a good harbour at Cochin coupled with our participation in it will be a terrible blow to ports in Travancore.

Sir, last year, I pleaded for relentless retrenchment in salaries and establishment. Thereafter in this Council and in the Assembly there were representations to the effect that further retrenchments ought to be made. The Dewan's reply to the representation in the Assembly was that, with the help of the Finance Committee, Government would do all that is necessary to further examine the question of retrenchment.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

The budget estimate for 1099 does not show that the help of the Finance Committee has been availed of by the Government to effect any substantial retrenchment, and the speeches of Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai have not enlightened usany further. On the other hand, expenditure on establishment has gone up this year. Mr. George has admitted that we spend 37·5 per cent. of our total revenues on salaries and 2 per cent. on travelling and other allowances. This is slightly less than the proportion in Madras and more than that in Mysore. He himself admits that there is possibility of further retrenchment here and there. But he contends that, because our finances are not in a dangerous condition and because we are not sustaining heavy deficits every year, retrenchment on a large scale is not necessary. I have endeavoured to point out that our financial outlook is not as rosy as it is represented to be and that we are short of funds to help the nation-building activities of the State. If the aim of the Government is always to equalise revenue with expenditure somehow and to relegate the future to the hands of Providence, we can be hopeful and merry with the slight achievements we are making. I fear that the smooth and quiet running of the machine of finance will gradually place us on the verge of an abyss if we do not gradually increase our resources and retrench our steadily increasing normal expenditure.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, in the budget there is a provision of Rs. 3,400 for the Head Translator to Government, Rs. 1,100 (a mistake for Rs 1,200) for the Assistant to the Head Translator, and Rs. 3,200 for Malayalam and Tamil piece-work translations. I do not know whether any and what provision is herein made for the entertainment of a full-time Tamil Translator. The current arrangement for the Tamil translation of Government proceedings is by the piece-work system which is obviously an unsatisfactory one. Tamil requires an independent translator as much as Malayalam and it would be well in the interests of the vast Tamil population of the country that the place of the Assistant to the Head Translator at least is filled by a person duly qualified in Tamil. On this point, therefore, I entirely endorse the view of my friend Mr. Paul V. Daniel.

I have a word to say in regard to *Bhagavatars* appointed in the Vernacular Schools. They are 63 in number, and draw a pay of Rs. 14 each, the annual allotment being Rs. 10,584. The pay of the drawing masters who are 61 in number, on, however, Rs. 18 each aggregates to the annual figure of Rs, 13,176. I confess I cannot guess the reason for so much disparity in the remuneration paid to the votaries of two arts which are of equal importance to the pupils concerned and to the general public. If the reason is that the drawing master is paid more for more arduous work, this is not the fact. For the *Bhagavatars* have to work at least for an equal number of hours with the drawing masters. As regards the subtlety of the two arts or the difficulty in mastering them, I do not see for what reason drawing is to be regarded as

more difficult of accomplishment, when on close scrutiny it will appear that music is the more subtle of the two and demands a closer and more exclusive attention of its votaries for a long period of time to attain proficiency therein. In the result, I have to urge that *Bhagavatars* have at least to be treated on a par with the drawing masters.

Another point to which I would draw attention is that *Bhagavatars* should be divided into two grades, higher and lower, and remunerated differently. This division will only be in consonance with the higher and the lower grade examinations fixed for them on the recommendation of the Music Board, making the *Bhagavatars* eligible for appointment in the Secondary and Elementary Schools respectively.

PRESIDENT: Any other non-official gentlemen inclined to speak?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): We will have our speeches to-morrow.

PRESIDENT: The only disadvantage is that, as regards the general discussion of the budget, whatever the official members may have to say cannot be said until all the non-official members have had their say. And if the non-officials are not going to speak now, the House will have to rise and we will have no more work for to-day. If they will go on speaking, we can continue till about half-past five. That is the only difference. I may also say that to-morrow there may not be sufficient time for the remaining non-official gentlemen and also for the official members to speak. I should like the officials to explain a number of points that have to be explained. I should like them to explain in detail various matters mentioned by the non-official members. So, it would be a good thing if the officials are kindly allowed by the non-official members sufficient time for their replies.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): If some of the official members would speak at once, it might obviate the repetition of certain points by us.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that is at all suitable in a general discussion like this. It is only when the officials are in full possession of the difficulties the non-official members experience, that they can economise time and make useful speeches.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Sir, I should like to make a few remarks on the subject of the State Railway. It is evident from the budget and from the previous budgets that they have never been a paying proposition. Why, it is difficult to know; and it is impossible for us, members of this Council, to know with the information placed at our disposal. What we do know, however, is that a very considerable amount of traffic passes over the line and a great number of passengers avail themselves of the service (*Hear, hear.*) To the lay mind, at any rate, the proposition looks a sound one and, one would think, ought to pay all right. Personally, I will require a good deal of convincing before I can be made to believe that, with efficient working, it cannot be made a very sound financial concern. The Financial Secretary referred, as I think he did

[President.]

the previous year, to a large sum of money being given to the South Indian Railway Company for providing new rolling stock. Well, where is that new rolling stock? Some of it ought to be ready and in use by this time. It is needless for me to enlarge on the state of the railway carriages; and every trader knows the dilapidated state of a great many of the goods waggons, some of them so bad that they cannot take loads up to their full carrying capacity, although the Railway Company take care to see that you *pay* for the full carrying capacity. (*Hear, hear*) What I should like to know is, is this large sum of money simply handed over to the Railway Company to provide the rolling stock for the railway generally? Is it the Travancore Government's share of the amount required for the whole system of the S. I. R., or is it an amount paid for rolling stock for the specific use of the Travancore State section? There is no doubt in my mind that, as things are at present, the Travancore Railway is starved. Ever since I have been here in the State, as far as my business is concerned, and, I know I am speaking on behalf of others as well, it has been a continual outcry against the inadequate supply of waggons to carry our goods. It has hampered business very greatly; and I consider it is up to this Government, if it wants to make its railway pay and assist the trade in the State and, by so doing, further the prosperity of the State generally, to see that sufficient rolling stock is supplied to enable traders and others to conduct their business in an efficient manner. As it is now, waggons are only supplied at the pleasure of the Railway Company and not the slightest consideration is given to the business of the country. Travancore is treated as a sort of backwater for which anything is good enough; and consideration is given to it only when the wants of other districts on the main line have been supplied. Fares and freight have risen 100 per cent. in many cases, killing a lot of business that used to come to Travancore; and now, even with this enormous increase, which is certainly not justified in my opinion, we have got a most inefficient service.

PRESIDENT: I take it that no non-official gentleman is prepared to speak hereafter this evening. There is no other alternative than to rise now and meet again at 11-30 to-morrow.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): We want to speak to-morrow. We are not prepared to-day.

PRESIDENT: Two days are allotted for general discussion. The whole time is supposed to be taken up fully for the purpose. However, we have to close an hour and a half in advance. We will meet again at 11-30 A. M. to-morrow and proceed. I would once again request the members to allow the official members sufficient time for their replies.

The House adjourned at 4 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 3rd August, 1923.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Rural Sanitation and Medical Relief.

34. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Kalkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state what steps are now being taken by the Sanitary Department for the improvement of the health of the people living in the mofussil and for the prevention of epidemics?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to Chapter VI of the Administration Reports of 1097 and previous years.

Superintendent, Vaccine Depôt.

35. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Kalkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who was appointed in the place of Mr. Chandy, Superintendent, Vaccine Depôt, when he was on other duty;

(*b*) whether that substitute was one who has passed any medical test; and

(*c*) if not, what the reasons were for entrusting the important work of preparing vaccine lymph to one who has no medical qualification?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Mr. Nagaraja Rao, Sanitary Circle Officer, was put in charge of the Vaccine Depôt without prejudice to his own duties as Assistant in the Depôt, when Mr. Chandy was appointed acting Sanitary Commissioner *vice* Mr. Krishnamurti Aiyar, absent on privilege leave.

(*b*) No.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(c) Mr. Nagaraja Rao has been an Assistant in the Vaccine Depôt. He has passed the English School Leaving Certificate Examination, Madras, the Government Technical Examinations in Hygiene and Physiology (Intermediate) and Minor Sanitary Engineering (Intermediate), and Vaccination. He is, in the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, competent to hold charge of the Depôt temporarily.

Establishment of a new Match Factory.

36. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Kalkulam*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether permission has been given for the establishment of a match factory in central Travancore, and, if so, whether any agreement has been entered into with the Government?

(b) If any agreement has been entered into, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The question does not arise.

Excise Buildings at Arukutty.

37. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points:—

(a) when the construction of the excise buildings at Arukutty was started;

(b) whether the Chief Engineer has received any report regarding the bad work done in those buildings, and if so, when;

(c) whether it is a fact that, towards the close of 1097, the then Executive Engineer, Mr. M. P. Mani reported to the Chief Engineer that the concrete laid for the foundation was only 3 inches to 6 inches thick, instead of 18 inches, as provided for in the estimate, and that the whole quantity as per the estimate was billed for and paid, causing thereby a loss of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000;

(d) whether any enquiry was held in the matter so far by the Chief Engineer;

(e) who is responsible for the loss;

(f) whether the Section Officer was given a promotion after the report against him was received by the Chief Engineer; and

(g) whether the Government will be pleased to enquire into this matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Government have no information.

(b) Yes; in July, 1922.

(c), (d), (e) and (g) The matter is under enquiry.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether any enquiry was held in the matter by the Chief Engineer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer given there says that the matter is under enquiry.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): That is the answer. But this is my further supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: The printed answer contains the answer also to the member's supplementary question. "The matter is under enquiry" means that the enquiry is going on.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): It is not said in the answer whether the enquiry is made by the Chief Engineer or by the Government. So I have put a further question to get a definite answer.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter has been enquired into by the Chief Engineer.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If so, have the Government found the person responsible for the loss?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The person responsible can be found out and the liability fixed by the Government only when the matter is finally disposed of.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In the answer to part (c), it is said that the matter is under enquiry. I want to know whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer reported the matter to the Chief Engineer.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The contents of official documents cannot be revealed at this stage.

Literacy in certain Communities.

38. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to give the percentage of literates to the whole population under the following heads: Christians, Nairs, Brahmins, Ezhavas, Vellalas, other Hindus, and Mahomedans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to chapter VIII and tables thereunder of the Travancore Census Report for 1921.

Grant of Land for Salt Culture.

39. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*):

(a) Have Government sanctioned an additional grant of 20 acres land to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar besides the old grant?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

(*b*) If so, what were the conditions on which the new grant was made?

(*c*) Have those conditions been fulfilled by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar? If not, what steps have been taken to enforce them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), no answer is called for.

Purchase of Opium.

40. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*):

(*a*) What is the quantity of opium annually purchased from the British Government?

(*b*) What is the duty on it?

(*c*) Is this duty credited in the budget? If not, why?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) About 5000 seers.

(*b*) and (*c*) Opium required for use in this State is now purchased from the Government of Madras at Br. Rs. 70 per seer, which is made up of Rs. 23 being the cost price to that Government, and Rs. 47 being the duty charged by that Government. The duty does not form a receipt of the Travancore Government. That is the existing understanding between the two Governments.

Receipts under Customs.

41. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): What is the revenue under Customs in 1096, 1097 and 1098, both under export and import?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to page 41 of the Statistical Volume for 1097. The figures for 1098 will be available only after the close of the year.

Tariff Rate of Cocoanuts.

42. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): What is the tariff rate on cocoanuts? When was it fixed? Do Government contemplate revising it?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) The member is referred to page 538 of the Almanac and Directory for 1923.

(2) The tariff rate was fixed by notification No. S. R. 229/585, dated the 30th January, 1920.

(3) No revision of the rate is now in contemplation.

Levy of Duty at the Alleppey Sea Cutsoms House.

43. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have received any complaint about the short levy of duty at the Alleppey Sea Customs House on goods imported through that port? Who is the officer responsible for it? What is the estimated loss sustained by Government on that account?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative, with regard to the first part of the question. In view of the above answer, the latter parts of the question do not arise.

Appointments made by the Chief Justice.

44. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a caste-war statement of appointments, permanent, temporary and acting, made by the Chief Justice of the High Court from Chingam 1096, up to date, showing, in the case of temporary and acting appointments, whether the persons appointed are now in service?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government do not propose to call for the information, as in their opinion the time and labour involved in its collection would be out of proportion to its utility.

Appointment of Ramaswami Aiyar in the High Court.

45. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Is it a fact that, when a *sub-protem.* vacancy of a clerk occurred in the grade of Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 in the High Court, the Chief Justice appointed one Ramaswami Aiyar who has only passed the School Final Examination and who had held no appointment before? Were there not Nair graduate applicants for the place at the time?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the above appointment was made when there were temporary clerks on Rs. 25 and Rs. 20 in the High Court, and if so, why?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. Ramaswami Aiyar is not a mere English School Leaving Certificate holder but has passed the Intermediate Examination. The appointment was one in the undergraduate scale which should not be given to a graduate under the standing orders of Government.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative. The temporary clerks referred to are still continuing and *sub-protem.* tenure is not always superior to temporary tenure.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to State whether there were no supernumerary hands at the time when this appointment was made?

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There were no supernumeraries in the High court at the time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There were many other supernumeraries at the time of the reorganisation.

PRESIDENT: You cannot make a statement. You can only put a question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there were no supernumeraries in other departments eligible for the post?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said there were no supernumeraries in the High Court. As to whether there were any supernumeraries in other departments, I claim notice.

Constables without Numbers.

46. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With reference to the answer given to interpellation No. 144, asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 10th Vrischikam, 1098, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Reserve Inspector of Police has submitted a list of the constables belonging to the Reserve Force who appeared without numbers? If so, will the Government be pleased to place that list on the table?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Reserve Inspector has submitted a list of the constables who had not been supplied with numbers, but *not* of those who actually appeared without numbers. The Inspector's list cannot be laid on the table.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many constables went to the College on that particular day?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Printing of Students' Strike Papers.

47. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have got the papers connected with the incidents of the 5th Kanni, 1097, printed, as promised by them in answer to the interpellations asked at the meetings of the Legislative Council held on the 31st July and the 25th November, 1922? If not, why are they not printed even after such a long time?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to get those papers printed before the close of this session?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) These papers are being printed.

(*b*) This is not feasible.

Sale of Toddy and Arrack after 8. P. M.

48. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (1) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that the contractor of the arrack shop situated by the side of the Puttingal temple at Paravur, Quilon, was granted a special license to vend arrack on the *utsavam* night after 8 P. M. till day-break on the 8th Minam 1098, in spite of the protest of the local Magistrate and Police authorities?

(2) Has any excise officer been granted the power of issuing special licenses for vending arrack and toddy after 8 P. M.?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) The answer is in the affirmative. The conduct of the Excise Inspector who unauthorisedly issued the special license has been noticed by the Excise Commissioner.

(2) The member is referred to clause 28 of the notice of sale of the privilege of vending jaggery arrack in independent shops during 1098 and 1099 published on page 28 of the Excise sheet of the Gazette dated the 21st February, 1922.

Sale of Liquor after 8 P. M.

49. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganmur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that toddy and arrack were sold to persons after 8 o'clock in the night near the Puttingal temple at Paravur, in Quilon, during the month of Minam 1098?

(*b*) If so, what action was taken against the Excise authorities who sanctioned this unauthorised sale of liquor?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer to Mr. Kumaran's question No. 202, part (1).

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Part (*b*) of my question has not been answered.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer will be found in the answer to part (1) of question 69.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I do not find it there.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is identical to that given to part (1) of the question immediately preceding. It runs thus:

"The conduct of the Excise Inspector who unauthorisedly issued the special license has been noticed by the Excise Commissioner."

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (*contd.*)

PRESIDENT: We will now resume the general discussion on the budget.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, in rising to make my observations on the 1099 budget, I wish first to congratulate Mr. George on the success which has attended his labours in the preparation of the estimates. It is a matter for great satisfaction and pride to us that our colleagues on the Standing Finance Committee have been enabled to study the budget most thoroughly, and that the budget is one, in the production of which, as Mr. George assures us, both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured. I have no doubt that this side of the House will be greatly benefited by the knowledge which our friends Messrs. K. Paramesvaran Pillai, G. Paramesvaran Pillai and T. K. Velu Pillai have gained at the source itself, and that our discussions have been immensely facilitated by the light they were in a position to throw on many a difficult aspect connected with the regulation of the finances of the State. The speech of the Financial Secretary introducing the budget, which I have had the pleasure of listening to, is a lucid exposition of the policies and principles which have guided the framing of the budget for the coming year. In these days of deficits all over India, it is highly gratifying that the transactions of the current year would give us a surplus of over Rs. 7½ lakhs and that the estimates of 1099, would result in a surplus of over two lakhs. Still I am not disposed to call the budget a prosperity budget. I say this, because, when I run my eyes down the figures and compare them, and also look into the explanations for the variations, I find that, so far as the 1098 revised estimates are concerned, the large excess of revenue over expenditure represents, on the side of receipts, a windfall of nearly five lakhs of rupees under salt, the veriest necessity of life, an undesirable increase of over two lakhs of rupees under intoxicating drugs, and an unsatisfactory decline of about two lakhs of rupees under forest; while on the side of expenditure, there is a dimunition of over Rs. 1½ lakhs under Education—for which, looking at the explanation, I am not sorry —a decrease of over half a lakh under Agriculture and Industries, on which I could not congratulate the Government, for, I think more should have been spent on these departments; and finally a fall of over a lakh of rupees in respect of buildings and communications. For the year 1099, the 1098 figures on the revenue side are found reproduced, more or less; while as regards expenditure, it is noted that it is proposed to augment it, in the case of education and public works. But for the uncertainty as to the continuance of the enhanced duty on salt after February, we would have got from the people another six lakhs more by their consumption of the commodity. This world yield a surplus much in excess of that of the current year. But I would not at all regret if the enhancement

of the salt tax happens to be cancelled next year. I should be most glad to see the duty restored to its former level, much to the relief of the people.

I now proceed to consider the budget in some detail. As regards the revised figures for the current year, there is an excess of Rs. 2½ lakhs under receipts, and a fall of Rs. 4 lakhs under expenditure. But for the higher salt tax, the year would have closed with a deficit. It is contended, however, that even without the doubling of the salt tax, there would still have been an appreciable surplus, but for (1) the expenditure provided for under salaries and establishments in excess of the actual requirements, and (2) the additional grants mainly under non-votable items. I find it difficult to follow the reasoning. The increased provision under these two heads was either necessary or unnecessary. If necessary, there would be a deficit, even in spite of a highly 'salted' revenue. If unnecessary, then it is clear that the avoidable provision was made because the Government secured five lakhs under salt. As a counterpoise to this excess revenue, so unexpectedly obtained, a serious departure from the previous practice was initiated, and enhanced provision was made under salaries and establishment. This was done, not on the ground of necessity, not because the procedure hitherto required it, but because there was money enough to be put into the other side of the balance. It is clear then that an uncalled-for provision was made in the budget, because the Government got about Rs. 5 lakhs under salt. This is a feature which runs through the budget and it is worth while looking into the grounds alleged for it. From the memorandum, I find the provision for leave allowances "was not the practice in previous years, the extra expenditure being either met from savings or treated as inevitable charge and not covered by budget grant at all." The memorandum says that "specific provision for leave allowances is necessary in future as the grants originally voted by the Council cannot be exceeded without the grant of additional funds by it." This, I venture to say, does not depict the state of affairs completely. It would seem that all leave allowances are voted by the Council, that the Government have to wait for fresh grants, when the original grants are found insufficient, and that to avoid inconvenience and delay, excess provision is made. I do not think that the Council can touch a cash of the leave allowances included under non-votable salaries; and these allowances, consume, I believe, a good portion of the total. If so, I do not understand how the Council will be asked for additional grants which it has no power to give. I shall be thankful if the Financial Secretary would remember my difficulty, and explain it in the concluding observations, if he proposes to make them. Again, it is said that provision for leave allowances is made at 5 per cent. of pay for ordinary departments and 2½ per cent. of pay for departments which enjoy periodical vacations.

Even as a tentative provision, I consider the proportions excessive, as he himself points out that a considerable portion might lapse. Moreover, the Account Office should be able to give the amounts of leave

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

allowances spent for a series of years, and with these, an average next to actuals could have been adopted for the budget. That would do away with the arbitrary fixing of amounts now, with the expectation of revising it a few months after.

As regards the increased provision above alluded to under non-votable items, it goes to over two lakhs of rupees, of which over Rs. 1½ lakhs are under non-votable heads, over which this House has no control. I believe most of it is distributed among the officers for salaries and allowances.

Turning to the revenues, the first thing that attracts notice is the fall of nearly two lakhs of rupees under sale of Government lands, during the year. The estimate for this item was pitched, last year, at a very high figure, and this side of the House did not fail to draw the attention of Government to it. The fall was repeated, and it is not surprising that the expectation was realised. For the next year, it is noted that an increase of a lakh of rupees over and above the current estimate is budgeted, on the contingency of improvement in the economic conditions, and the consequent large demands for *puduval* lands. I have referred to the revenue from the duty on salt. What I have to point out here is the reduction in the 1099 budget of one lakh of rupees under recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt. The reason is that under the contract for the supply and sale of salt at Alleppey, Government do not incur transport charges on account of salt sold at that depôt. I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the general impression that under the heads of revenues, more is being levied than is strictly needed to meet the charges incurred, and that in view of the doubling of the salt tax, this levy works the greatest hardship among the mass of the population. I would request the Excise Commissioner to explain the *minutae* of the amount of Rs. 2½ lakhs put down for 1098, and of Rs. 1½ lakhs for 1099. This House will, I hope, agree with me when I say that it is advisable to set the public feeling at rest in this matter. There is another point connected with salt at Alleppey. The Government do not incur the transport charges on account of the salt sold, and consequently a less amount is collected from the people. Am I to understand that the amount not collected would remain in the hands of the people, or that it would have to be parted with anyhow—not to the Government, this time, but to the contractor? It is reasonable that the contractor should recoup the expenditure incurred by him in transporting salt. But is the recovery to be at the same rate per maund, as in the case of the Government? These are matters which deserve explanation, at least in a general way.

Passing to excise, particularly abkari and opium, the fixation for the current year's budget estimate regarding license fee and duty on country liquor and toddy at Rs. 4 lakhs less than in 1097 was viewed with satisfaction by this House and the Government. It was even hinted

that temperance was taking root. But we find that the revised estimate has exceeded the budget by over Rs. 2½ lakhs. While the decline in the budget figure was due to the less amount realised at the Abkari auction sales, the increase in the revised estimate is attributed to the fact that a good many unsold shops were taken up subsequently. That the men who kept themselves behind at first should have come forward in such large numbers, so as to enable the Government to collect a sum of two lakhs of rupees in addition, fills me with misgivings as to the future of temperance.

Government's policy in not bringing the three taluks in north Travancore held by Mr. Nadar under the independent shop system is inexplicable. If the tree-tax is low in Cochin, it is made up by a high rental which equalises the price of toddy on both sides. The change which was proposed to have been made about four years ago would have brought in a few lakhs of rupees to the Government exchequer. During the discussion of the budget last year, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar pointed out the necessity of revising the Interportal Convention, and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai delivered an excellent lecture on the subject before a distinguished audience with the Advocate General of Madras in the chair. But very little appears to have been done in this direction.

The prospect of improvement in the forest revenue does not appear bright in view of the fact that Travancore timbers have to compete with cheap Burma teak. If the competition continues, I do not see how, as the Finance member thinks, we can possibly expect even a moderate recovery in the market. The continuing decrease of income under Railways shows that we are after all paying heavily for this civilising agency. Of course, the Finance Member has explained why the income has been diminishing. But he admits that there is no reason to anticipate any large improvement in traffic earnings or any material reduction in the working expenses.

I now pass on to notice a point or two on the expenditure side, in addition to what I have said already on the revised estimate of 1098. A saving of Rs. 4 lakhs is shown and one reason assigned for this is that the provision made for salaries and establishment was in excess of actual requirements to the extent of nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs. Why such a provision was made, I am unable to understand. For 1099, the total sum provided comes to Rs. 9 lakhs more than the allotment for the current year. Education comes in for an increase of Rs. 3¾ lakhs. In this increase the revision of salaries and establishment obviously plays a prominent part. It is not at all satisfactory to find that the increase under grants-in-aid amounts to only Rs. 85,000. Of this, only half a lakh is set apart to compensate private school managers for the fee concessions that they might grant to the depressed and other educationally backward classes. A more generous policy in the matter of helping private schools would, not only be quite in keeping with the noble object Government have in view, but would also be an appreciation of the great work that missionary and other agencies have done and are doing for education. A new

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

University is the biggest problem before the country; and it will be interesting to know how the Government propose to raise the very large sums required for the purpose.

It is with very great regret that I add in conclusion that the retrenchments so earnestly advocated by this side of the House last year have not received at the hands of the Government that attention which they deserved. It is painful to think that, with all our efforts in the past, we should find it difficult to make any headway towards inducing the Government in accepting our demands, so necessary in the best interests of the financial condition of the State. We hope to succeed at least this time.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ൧൦൯൮-ലെ പുതുക്കിയ അടയാളിൻപ്രകാരം ൬൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവിൽ ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു കണ്ടിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു വയ്ക്കുന്നതാണ് ഒരു നല്ലതായ ആയവ്യയകർത്താവിൻെറ ലക്ഷണമെന്നു കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ആ വശത്തു നിന്നു പറഞ്ഞു കേൾക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ഭരണനയപ്രകാരം ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ജോർജ്ജ് ആ കുററത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

ഉപ്പിൻെറ വർദ്ധനയാൽ യാദൃച്ഛികമായി കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള ൪൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ചിലവാകാതെ വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ൨൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ വകുപ്പിലെ അനുവാദം രൂപായിൽനിന്നും ചിലവാകാതെ വിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ൩൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപായും കൂടികൂട്ടിയതു കണക്കാക്കുമ്പോൾ ൨൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരുന്നു. ൯൮-ൽ നീക്കിയിരിപ്പായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ൬൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഇതിൽനിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ സാധാരണവർഷങ്ങളുടെ കണക്കിന് ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ അധികച്ചിലവായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നതു്. ഇതോടുകൂടി മറെറാരു ചിലവു കൂടി ചേർക്കേണ്ടതായി ഉണ്ട്. സ്റ്റേഷണെറി കൺട്രാക്ടർക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുക കണക്കാക്കിയിരുന്നതുപോലെ കുടിവിലയാൽ പലർക്കും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുകകൂടി കണക്കാക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പററി കണക്കുകളിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. കുടിവിലയിൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ട കണക്കുകൾ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നാലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും അതു കൊടുത്തുതീർക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. സ്റ്റേഷണെറി കൺട്രാക്ടർക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായ തുക സമയാസമയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോടു വാദിച്ചു വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു അവർക്കു ശക്തിയുണ്ട്. കുടിവില വാങ്ങാനുള്ള കക്ഷികൾക്ക് അതിനുള്ള ശക്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വ്യത്യം

സം മാത്രമെ അതിലുള്ളു. കുടിവിലക്കുടി കുടിശികതീൎത്ത് ഈയാണ്ടുകൊടുത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അധികച്ചിലവു വീണ്ടും വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു.

ഈയാണ്ടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾകൊണ്ട് ഇവിടത്തെ വരവു ചിലവുകൾ അപകടമായ നിലയിലല്ലെന്നുള്ള ബോധ്യം ബലപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി മിസ്റ്റർ ജോൎജ്ജിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു പുറമെ, ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഇമ്പീരിയൽ ഗവൎണ്മെന്റിനേയും പ്രൊവിൻഷ്യൽ ഗവൎണ്മെന്റുകളേയും, മററു നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളേയും താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി അദ്ദേഹം സമാധാനപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. പുറമെയുള്ള ഗവൎണ്മെന്റുകളുടെ അധികച്ചിലവുകളും അവയെ താങ്ങാനുള്ള നികുതിവൎദ്ധനകളും ഇവിടെ അതേമാതിരി ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വരാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു കാരണം അവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും മററു ചിലവുകളും അതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ സ്വീകരിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ കാണുന്ന അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകളെ സൌകൎയ്യം കിട്ടുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും കുറച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ ജോൎജ്ജിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്ന് അനേക കാലമായി ഗവൎണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. അതിന്റെ ഫലമായി പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും ഇടയ്ക്കാലത്തു നിറുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ കുറച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതുവരെ ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള തുക ദുൎവ്യയമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഇതേമാതിരി കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതായ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റു അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ നിൎബ്ബന്ധസ്വഭാവം അതിലേക്കൊരു പ്രതിബന്ധമായി നിൽക്കുന്നു.

ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ൩൦൦-ന ൩൬ വീതമേയാകുന്നുള്ളു എന്നും ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ൩൦൦-ന ൫൮ വീതമാകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെന്റുപരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി ഓരോ വൎഷവും ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വൎദ്ധിക്കാനെ തരമുള്ളു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇത്രത്തോളം വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വൎദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതു ന്യായമാണെന്നു സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്ബയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

തവണ ഉപമയോടുകൂടിയതായ ഒരു സമാധാനം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതായത്, നാഴി അരി പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ഒരു പറ അരി പാകം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും അടുപ്പുകൾ മൂന്നുവേണമെന്നാണ്. ഒരു പറ അരി വയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന അടുപ്പുകൾ നാഴി അരി വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണു. ഈ സംഗതി ആലോചിക്കാതെ അതേ അടുപ്പുകളെ നാഴി അരി വയ്ക്കാൻ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിറക് അധികപ്പെടാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകൾ ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കണമെന്നാണു വാദിക്കുന്നത്.

ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങുന്ന ശേഷിമാന്മാരായ ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ദിക്കുകളിലേക്കു ഓടിപ്പോകുമെന്ന് ശങ്കിക്കയും പ്രസ്താവിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെ ഒരു ഭയത്തിന് ഇവിടെ അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്ന സമർത്ഥന്മാരായ പലേ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കും കിട്ടുന്ന ശമ്പളം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ശമ്പളങ്ങളേക്കാൾ വളരെ കുറവാണെന്ന് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. എന്നിരുന്നിട്ടും അവരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ ശമ്പളത്തിന്റെ കുറവുകൊണ്ട് ഓടിപ്പോകാൻ ആലോചിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല. വിശേഷിച്ചും, സ്വദേശികളായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശമ്പളത്തെ കരുതി മാത്രം ഉദ്യോഗം കൈയേററിട്ടുള്ളതായി തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ വേല ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാരെ ജുവാൻഫെർണാൻഡിസ്സിലേക്കുകൊണ്ടുപോകയോ ജപ്പാൻരാജ്യത്തെ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ സമീപത്തുകൊണ്ടുവന്നു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യിക്കയോ വേണ്ടതായി വരുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. പുറമെ നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്നവക്കു കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ, അവരെക്കാൾ പലവഴികളിലും കൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ള സ്വദേശികൾ ആ ശമ്പളങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായവും സ്വാഭാവികവുമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയാണ് ഇവിടത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വദ്ധിച്ചുവരാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ഈ രാജ്യത്തുള്ള ചിലവു ഡിപ്പാട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ മിക്കവാറും ഭരണം സ്വദേശികളല്ലാത്തവരുടെ കയ്യിലാണ് സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ആ ഡിപ്പാട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ ഓരോന്നായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ അവിടെയുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങളും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും കൂടുതലായും ഓരോ വർഷവും കൂടിവരുന്നതായും കാണാവുന്നതാണ്.

ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനു മറെറാരു കാരണം കാണുന്നതു് ൨൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗത്തിന് ൨൫൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കയും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തുക നീക്കി വരുന്നതിനെ പേഴ്സണൽ അലവൻസ്സായി വകവച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. ഈ നയം ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ അന്യായമായി വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകളെ നിശ്ചയിക്കയല്ലാതെ ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും അവശ്യമായി ശമ്പളങ്ങളും നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതായ നയം പബ്ലിക്കു സവീസിനെ ദുഷിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഇവിടെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും കാരണമായി പറയുന്നതു പബ്ലിക്കുസവീസിൽ കാര്യക്ഷമതയും സത്യസന്ധതയും വേണ്ടിട്ടെന്നാണ്. ഇന്നലെ എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസവ്വീസിൽ കടക്കാനുള്ള ദുർഘടങ്ങൾ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടി അവിടെ ഒരു സ്ഥലം കിട്ടിക്കൊള്ളാമെങ്കിൽ ൫൫ വയസ്സും പിന്നീട്ട സെൎവീസും പോലെയുള്ള നീട്ടലുകളും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടുന്നതുവരെ പബ്ലിക്കുസവ്വീസിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു കാരണവശാലും പുറത്തു പോകേണ്ട സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട അവകാശമില്ലാത്ത നിലയിലാണു നടന്നു പോരുന്നതു്. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളിൽ ഉയർന്നതരം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്കുസവീസിനു അത്യാവശ്യമായുള്ള കാര്യക്ഷമത ക്ഷയിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന സംഗതികളിൽ ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടതൽകൊണ്ടു് ഒരിക്കലും കാര്യക്ഷമതയുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ലാ. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഉത്തമദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ ഇന്നത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസവീസിൽ ഉള്ള വിവരം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളം അറിവുള്ളതാണ്.

പബ്ലിക്കുസവ്വീസിലുള്ള സത്യസന്ധതയെപററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ പലേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലും കൈയ്ക്കൂലിവളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുവരികയും അപൂവ്വം ചിലഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിൽ കൈയ്ക്കൂലിവദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുസമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഇവിടെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ പബ്ലിക്കു സവ്വീസ് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അത്യാഗ്രഹം ഗവർൺമെൻറിനുള്ളതുപോലെ അതിൻെറഫലം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ ഭരണന്യൂനതകളേയും അഴിമതികളേയും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടു

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

കൂടിയാണ് നിയമസഭയിലെ അനൗദ്യോഗസ്ഥാംഗങ്ങൾ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ അയക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനേക്കാൾ തുറന്ന ഹൃദയത്തോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മറുപടിപറയുന്നതായാൽ അഴിമതികളിൽ പലതും കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതാണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു് അവരുടെ കടമയാണെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചുപോരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിനെ ദുഷിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ആ നയം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ രേഖാമൂലമുള്ള തെളിവുകളോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ എത്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം പറയാൻ ധൈര്യവും കിട്ടുമായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ മനസ്സാക്ഷിയെക്കൂടി സഹായത്തിന് ആവശ്യപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണ്. ഏതായാലും അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവരെപ്പററി വരുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ആദ്യമായി തുറന്ന മറുപടികൾ പറകയും അതിലും അവർ നന്നായിവരാത്തപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിൻെറ അഭിമാനത്തേയും വിചാരിച്ച് അവരെ അതിൽനിന്നും പറഞ്ഞയക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഉചിതമായ ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തിയായിതീരുന്നതാണ്.

പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന മറെറാരുസംഗതികൂടി ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ചില ആഫീസുകളിലുള്ള സിൽബന്ധികളിൽ മുഴുവനുമോ, ഭൂരിപക്ഷമോ ആളുകളെ അതാതിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ അവരുടെ സ്വജാതീയരെത്തന്നെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ ഭരണനയം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ജാതിസ്പർദ്ധയെ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ഒരു വിഷബീജമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇത്തരം കാര്യങ്ങളെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി നിറുത്തേണ്ടതും ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു അനുരൂപമായശിക്ഷകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്.

ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിനെ ഒരു മാതൃകാനിലയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിലേയ്ക്കു, അതിൻെറ ഇന്നത്തെ സൂക്ഷ്മമായസ്ഥിതികളെ അനുരൂപമായവിധം അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിറിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥാനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അടങ്ങിയതായ ഒരു കമ്മിററി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടത അത്യാവശ്യമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കുതോന്നുന്നതു്.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായുള്ള ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ കഴിയുംവിധം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു

പലേശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിലുള്ള രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പരാശ്രയസ്ഥിതി അനേകകാലമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെ തടയുന്നതിനുപലതും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. പുറമെനിന്നും നെല്ലും അരിയും വരുത്തുന്നതിൽ ഓരോആണ്ടിലും രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു അതിന്റെ വിലക്കൂടുതൽ കൊണ്ടാണെന്നും, ആ വില ൨൦ സംവത്സരങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വിലയിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള പറയുന്നു. ഈ കണക്കുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കാം.

൧൦൫൭ മുതൽ ൧൦൬൬ വരെ ൧൦ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ അന്നത്തെ ജനസംഖ്യയായ ൨൪,൦൧,൫൦൮ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും ശരാശരി ൧൫,൦൦,൩൩൧ രൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കു അരിയും നെല്ലും വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള കണക്കിൻപ്രകാരം ജനസംഖ്യയിലെ ഒരാൾക്ക് ഒരാണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ൧൭ ചക്രം ൭ കാശു വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള അരിയും നെല്ലും വരുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇന്ന ആണ്ടു മുതൽ ഇന്ന ആണ്ടുവരെ എന്നു	ജനസംഖ്യ	ഈ ആണ്ടുകളിൽ ശരാശരി ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലും അരിയും	ഇവിടെ വിളഞ്ഞു കിട്ടുന്ന നെല്ലു നീക്കി ജനസംഖ്യയിലെ ഒരാളിനു ഒരാണ്ടത്തേക്കു വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലിന്റെയും അരിയുടേയും വില		
			രൂപാ	ചക്രം	കാശു
൧൦൫൭-൧൦൬൬	൨൪,൦൧,൫൦൮	൧൫,൦൦,൩൩൧	...	൧൭	൭
൧൦൬൭-൧൦൭൬	൨൫,൫൭,൭൩൬	൨൪,൭൦,൧൨൦	...	൨൭	...
൧൦൭൭-൧൦൮൬	൨൯,൫൨,൧൫൭	൫൨,൨൨,൩൭൩	൧	൨൭	൮
൧൦൮൭-൧൦൯൬	൩൪,൨൮,൯൭൫	൧,൪൧,൬൦,൩൦൫	൪	൪	...
൧൦൯൭-ൽമാത്രം	൪൦,൦൫,൨൪൯	൨,൨൬,൮൭,൦൫൭	൫	൧൮	൯

ഈ കണക്കുകൾപ്രകാരം ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള പറയുന്ന മാതിരി കഴിഞ്ഞ ൨൦ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തീട്ടുള്ള അരിയുടേയും നെല്ലിന്റേയും വില ഇരട്ടിയൊ മൂന്നിരട്ടിയൊ ആയിട്ടല്ല വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ പരാശ്രയസ്ഥിതി ഈ കണക്കുകൾ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതാണ്. ഈ നിലയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനു പലേ കാര്യങ്ങളും കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. അതിൽ ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളവയെ വിവരിക്കാം.

(൧) കൃഷിക്കു ജലാസൌകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കുക. ൯൬-ൽ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾക്കു ൩൨,൫൬൪ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതു ൯൭-ൽ ൧,൧൨,൫൦൦ രൂപയാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു ചിലവാക്കുകയും ൯൮-ലെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ൧,൪൬,൩൦൦ രൂപായായി അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ ചിലവ് ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ആണ്ടുതോറും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുവരുന്നതിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരായജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുള്ളതാണ്. അനേകകാലമായി ന്യായമായ മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ ചെയ്യിക്കാതിരുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഇത്രയും രൂപാ അതിലേക്കു മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സൌകര്യമുള്ളതായ എല്ലാ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും മൈനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ ചെയ്തുതീർക്കുന്നതുവരെ അതിലേക്കു കൂടുതൽതുക അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

(൨) കൃഷിക്കായുള്ള ഉഴവായുധങ്ങളും, പച്ചിലവളവും, സർക്കാർവനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും എടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെ നീക്കി കൊടുക്കുക.

(൩) കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുക.

(൪) കൃഷിവായ്പറഗുലേഷൻപ്രകാരം കൃഷിക്കാർ കൃഷിയാവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ൫൦൦ രൂപായിൽ കവിയാതെ ചോദിക്കുന്ന തുകകൾ കഴിയുംവിധം വേഗത്തിൽ അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ നിഷ്കർഷ ചെയ്യുക.

(൫) കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ വക മുൻ ആയക്കെട്ടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട് അവരുടെ അനുഭവത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിലെ നടപടിദോഷത്താൽ പുറംപോക്കു ഭൂമികളായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകളെടുത്ത അവരെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുത്താതെ ആ ഭൂമികളെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുക.

(൬) രാജ്യത്തിൽ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ഭരണനയത്തെ ഗവർൺമെൻറു മുൻ നിറുത്തി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ ആലോചിക്കുന്നെങ്കിൽ കൃഷിക്കാരും കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നവരുമായ സാധാരണ

ആളുകൾക്ക് സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വാങ്ങി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ അവയുടെ തറവില, കരം ഇവ മിതമായ നിലയിലാക്കി കുറയ്ക്കുക.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഭായസ്ഥിതിയറിയാൻ ഇവിടെ കണക്കുകൾ ഒന്നുംതന്നെയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂനികുതിയിലും മററു വഴികളിലും നികുതി ഭാരങ്ങളെ ചുമത്തുമ്പോൾ അതിലേക്കുള്ള അവരുടെ ശക്തി അറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കണക്കുകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഭൂനികുതിയുടെ വരവിനെ ഏതെങ്കിലും നിലയിൽ വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പരാശ്രയനിലകൂടി ഏററവും ഗൌരവമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വിററു കിട്ടുന്ന വരവ് അടുത്ത കാലങ്ങളിൽ കുറഞ്ഞു വരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ വരവ് ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും കുറഞ്ഞുവരാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല എന്നു മാത്രവുമല്ലാ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഭൂനികുതി വദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനായി മാത്രം സർക്കാർഭൂമികളെ വില്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരിക്കലും രാജ്യത്തിനു രക്ഷയായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് അനുരൂപമായിട്ടാണ് സർക്കാർഭൂമികളെ വില്ക്കേണ്ടത്. എന്നല്ലാതെ സർവ്വേപാട്ടിയെ നിയമിച്ച് ഓരോ പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളേയും ൨-ം ൫൦-ം ഏക്കർ വീതം ഡിമാർക്കേററു ചെയ്തു് സാമാനങ്ങൾ വില്ക്കാൻ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന മാതിരിയിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ പലിശക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു സ്വത്തിനെപോലെ ഗണിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. കാലം ചെല്ലുംതോറും ഭൂമിയുടെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വദ്ധിക്കയും അതിന് അനുരൂപമായി കൂടുതൽ വില കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ സർക്കാർഭൂമികൾ വില്ക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള വരവു കുറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നതിൽ ന്യായമായി നിരാശപ്പെടുവാൻ അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാഭായസ്ഥിതി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിന് ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായി സഹായിക്കുന്നതു വ്യവസായവും വ്യവസായവിദ്യാഭ്യാസവുമാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള വ്യവസായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ പററി രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വ്യവസായ സർവ്വേ ൯൨-ൽ തുടങ്ങി ൯൮-ൽ അവസാനിച്ചതോടുകൂടി വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു രൂപീകരിക്കയും ഡാക്ടർ ബാക്കരെ ഡയറക്ടരായി നിശ്ചയിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ൧൦൯൨-മുതൽ ൧൦൯൬ വരെ വ്യവസായ സർവ്വേക്കും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനുമായി ൩,൫൨,൭൬൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അഞ്ചുവഷത്തെ ജോലികളും, മൂന്നുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെയും ഫലം എന്തായിത്തീൎന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ൧൬൦മത്തെ പ്രജാസഭാപ്രസംഗത്തിൽ യാതൊന്നും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാതെ ദിവാൻജിഅവൎകൾ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽനിന്നു എല്ലാവൎക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണു. ൧൦൯൬-വരെ വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഭരണക്രമങ്ങളൽ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനു സമൎപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള റിപ്പോൎട്ടുകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ഒരു സംഗതിയിലെങ്കിലും ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനു ധൈൎയ്യമായും വ്യക്തമായും പ്രവൎത്തിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെ വിഷമിക്കയാണു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ൧൦൯൭-മേടമാസം മുതൽ മിസ്റ്റർ. ഐ. സി. ചാക്കോയെ വ്യവസായ ഡയറക്ടരായിനിയമിച്ചുഎങ്കിലും അതിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു ജോലി തുടങ്ങാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവന്നു. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം ഡാക്ടർ ബാക്കർ ജോലിവിട്ടുപോകുന്നതുവരെ അദ്ദേഹം തുടങ്ങിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളിൽ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടവയെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടവയെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും ഒട്ടുവളരെ സമയം വ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾ വേലചെയ്തും പട്ടിണികിടന്നും തരുന്നപണത്തെ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരിക്കലും ഗവൎമ്മെൻറു ദുൎവ്വ്യയം ചെയ്വാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണു്.

മുൻകഥകളെപ്പററി ഇത്രയും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഇതുപോലെ പിന്നീടൊരവസരത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നതിനും പറയുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണം വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു മുന്നറിവിനായി മാത്രമാണു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തുനിന്നും ൧൦൬൦-ൽ ൧,൩൮,൩൬,൮൩൪ രൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കയററുമതി ചെയ്തു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതു ൧൦൯൬-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൬,൪൦,൮൯,൫൮൩ രൂപായായി വൎദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ൧൦൦-നു ൯൦ വീതവും അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളായിട്ടാണു് കയററുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളമായും സൌകൎയ്യമായും കിട്ടുന്ന അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളെ സംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളാക്കി ഇവിടത്തെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ നിൎവ്വഹിക്കാതെ കയററുമതി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി ഗണ്യമായവിധം വൎദ്ധിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഇവിടെയുണ്ടാകുന്ന അസംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളിൽ പലതും സംസ്കൃതസാധനങ്ങളാക്കിത്തീൎക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതായ പല വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെയും ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ പഠിപ്പിച്ചു വരുത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു. ഇവരെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനു സാധി

ക്കമെങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്കായി അവക്കു വേണ്ട സൌകൎയ്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കയും അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം അവരുടെ ചെറുപ്പകാലത്തെ സമയത്തെ പുറമേയുള്ള രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രേയസ്സിനായി വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിനും അവരുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കും വേണ്ടി അവരെ ഭംഗിവാക്കുപറഞ്ഞു പിരിച്ചയക്കയുമാണു് വേണ്ടതു.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there have been criticisms about the budget from different standpoints. When I hear member after member rise up and point out that there is nothing remarkable in Government having been able to present a surplus budget as the surplus was due to various accidental circumstances for which no credit is due to anybody, it reminds me of a paragraph in *Punch*. When, after the close of the great war, various experts began to point out that the British Government and the British generals had gone wrong in every aspect of the preparation and conduct of the war, *Punch* pointed out that these people forgot one thing, *viz.*, that England won the war and that some measure of pre-vision and generalship must have been necessary for achieving this result. Similarly, with regard to our surplus, I feel sure that, whatever accident may have helped us, but for the long-continued, cautious and conservative financial policy of Government, this surplus would not have materialised; and to that extent both the Government and the Financial Secretary deserve the cordial congratulations of the country.

Passing on from this preliminary observation, I desire only to offer a few remarks about the way in which the direction of the activities of the Development Departments and the policy of Government which has a bearing upon them could be slightly altered with beneficent results. One of the most remarkable acts of the administration of the late President Roosevelt was the appointment of the Country Life Commission, to find out what could best be done for the betterment of the condition of dwellers in the rural parts of the country as distinct from the town dwellers. These were President Roosevelt's words:

> "Our civilization rests at bottom on the wholesomeness, the attractiveness, and the completeness as well as the prosperity of life in the country. Upon the development of country life rests ultimately our ability to feed and clothe the hungry nations, to supply the city with fresh blood, clean bodies and clean brains that can endure the terrific strains of modern life. We need the development of men in the open country who will be, in the future as in the past, the stay and the strength of the nation".

President Roosevelt was moved to take up this question by reading about the marvellous achievements in this direction of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society under the inspiring personality of Sir Horace Plunkett. Land settlement, agriculture, various forms of cottage industry, credit societies such as creameries, bee-keeping, lace manufacture, and wholesale producing and distributive societies, had made the most wonderful strides of progress there. Statistics of all these are the most eloquent proof of the success of the movement. I will give only one set of figures about the famous Irish creameries. In 1889

[Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillai.]

there was one butter society with butter sales to the extent of £ 4,369. Its bank loans etc., were *nil*. By 1918 there were more than 1,000 societies, butter sales amounted to roughly £ 28½ millions, and the bank loans to £ 7 millions; the general turnover was £ 10 millions, and total turnover £ 39½ millions. Nationalist Ireland, which had for years been sunk in the mire of despondency, took a new lease of life which was reflected in all directions. Emigration to America, which was depopulating the country districts, was almost stopped as people found there were means of earning their livelihood and living a decent and moderately comfortable life at home. Government also felt compelled to shape its policy in tune with the new trend of things. The landless peasants were enabled, through Government financial help, to purchase their holdings; a series of Land Acts were enacted culminating in the Windhan's Land Act of 1901 by which £100,000,000 of 2¾ per cent. land stock repayable in 68½ yearly instalments and guaranteed by the British Treasury was issued and given to the land-owners as purchase price. If the land owner instead of realising interest on his purchase price, desired to realise his capital, he could sell these stocks in the open market. Whenever the price of the stocks fell below par, they were bought up by Government out of a fund which had been created under the designation of the Irish Development Fund, and thus the price of the stock was kept steady. Plunkett House, from which these various forms of activity were directed and guided, and the propagandist literature issued therefrom have become the inspiration of all persons throughout the world who desire to better the lot of suffering humanity. Sir Horace Plunkett's own book, *Ireland in the New Century*, has become classic to all social reformers and co-operators. The movement of mass betterment through co-operation is associated in England chiefly with the honored name of Richard Owen. It is unnecessary for me to refer at greater length to what is being done throughout the world for the economic uplift of the great mass of population.

All I desire is to point out that a comprehensive scheme on these lines in which there is scope for the intelligent and harmonious co-operation of both the Government and the people is the supreme necessity of the day in Travancore. Here the population is almost exclusively agricultural and rural. The conditions here are ideally fitted for a successful movement on those lines; practically all the people here may be classed as rural and agricultural. General education here is more widespread than in any other country in India and in several countries of Europe. There will be no necessity for compulsory land purchase, as fortunately Government have at their disposal a large area of land which could be made available as small allotments. But very little has been done to help the rural population. The remarks of a great writer on the rural population of another country applies with far greater force to the conditions in our country:

"On no point of the whole of our social and economic system is reconstruction or reorganisation based on a comprehensive enquiry more urgently called for than on country life. There is no unity about it, no satisfactory inter-connexion among parts, no

substance for contentment nor of immediate prospect of wealth. In St. Paul's words, people in the country parts are groaning and travailing in pain together, waiting to be clothed upon. The country is full of hopeless, prospectless labourers, farmers and landlords."

I have no new remedies to suggest. It is a matter for gratification that solutions which occur to one when one reads of most of the successful remedial measures adopted in other countries have already suggested themselves to the Government. What I plead for is that the various measures should be reviewed and re-shaped and co-ordinated on a comprehensive basis to suit the conditions in this country and that all friction and obstacles in the way of all the resources of Government and the hearty co-operation of the people being brought to bear upon the solution of the problem should be removed. The remedies that suggest themselves to me from the example of other countries are the following:—

(1) Proper land records and boundaries and their up-to-date maintenance to reflect the changes in ownership or occupation.

(2) The removal of all vagueness and all causes of friction in the relation between *jenmies* and *kudiyans*.

(3) Land settlement in small allotments on an extensive scale.

(4) Provision of rural credit by which landed property can be made a liquid asset freely utilisable for agricultural improvements.

(5) Encouragement of cottage industries such as stock-breeding, weaving, coir yarn and mat industry, and lace-making; and also providing finances for the same.

(6) General, technical and agricultural education on practical lines.

About land records, the *Jenmi-Kudiyan* Regulation and other matters I hope to have other opportunities of offering a few observations. About financing industry and cultivation in general, I am not unaware of what is being attempted through the proposed State-aided Bank, through cooperation, the Central Co-operative Bank and through various other forms of credit societies and through the Agricultural Loans Regulation. What I have to submit is that these measures do not touch the real kernel of the problem. I would request Government to enquire what is being done in other countries. There is for example the *Rente Bank* of Prussia which is authorised by Government to issue a very large amount of land bonds which are made available to persons who purchase small holdings or who require money to develop them. These *Rente Banks* do not require any money drafts from Government, but as they are run by business-men on business lines with the authority and support of Government, the bonds are readily bought and sold; and so these bonds discharge the functions of ready money. There is also the Land Bank of Berlin, the Regional Banks of France, the National Land Banks of Ireland, Denmark and other European countries and especially of several Australian States and other growing countries owning plenty of land with no liquid money. These wi l afford us valuable hints how to

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adapt similar institutions to the needs of our country without involving Government in any heavy financial outlay in ready money. What is necessary is that these should be run by business-men on business lines with the authority of Government in the background, but without the paralysing presence of departmental redtapism, favouritism, and other personal considerations, all of which exercise such a demoralising and discouraging influence upon all the benevolent and well-meant intentions of Government at the present day.

Similarly, with regard to land settlement, it is undeniable that Government are fully aware of the benefits of the scheme; but after the changes in the rules, framed probably with the best of intentions, what little demand there was for land has only disappeared—surely not accountable wholly by the prevailing financial depression. The way in which applications for land are dealt with is to a large extent responsible for this. Other forces also have been at work. The departmental authorities come to know that in some instances some speculative purchasers of land were able to sell their registered holdings at a great profit or that somebody through a lucky deal in coups or through favoritism made a large profit in timber. Then the authorities rush to the opposite extreme in a panic; and in order to redeem their personal prestige or through ignorance of local conditions - sometimes Himalayan in character, in one instance timber value having been assessed at more than Rs. 1 lakh above the correct valuation—or through personal prejudice or through a mixture of all these causes, they try to enforce conditions which render it impossible for any genuine demand for land to be satisfied. If moderate rates of *taravila* and tax are charged on some uniform and intelligible principle, and if the standing timber on lands is sold in public auction to be removed within a reasonable time, I shall be greatly surprised if there is any dearth of demand for plots of land 5 acres and 10 acres in area in any fairly good region of Travancore. With regard to the attempt of Government to sell lands in 5 acre and 10 acre plots, I was discussing this question with a member of this House, Mr. Dominic Tomman, who combines remarkable intelligence with unrivalled practical acquaintance with the land problems in our country. Mr. Tomman is of opinion that poor people without any money and without any support will never be able to take up and improve isolated plots far away from their homes. If, on the other hand, a large block is thrown open and an intelligent and fair-minded person is asked to select a number of settlers, and form a colony, and if Government will render some small help in the shape of agricultural loans on easy terms and by the opening of communications, the scheme of colonisation on a large scale can be most successfully combined with the scheme of creating a large number of small allotments. As an example, he was telling me that this could be most successfully done in the case of the land in the catchment area of the proposed Kallar reservoir. Government could also eventually realise a decent

rate of *taravila* and tax. I am only referring to one direction in which the good intentions of Government are frustrated by a failure to appreciate local conditions. All these problems could be solved on correct lines by means of an organization similar to the Irish Agricultural Organization Society. The initial momentum and the expenses of propaganda work in the case of Ireland were supplied by philanthropists like Carnegie and Lord Dunsany. But here these helps could be and ought to be most effectively provided by Government through the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Mammen Mappillai if the Economic Development Board has not been trying to do work of that description.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I do not think it is possible for a Board which meets only occasionally to do it. It requires much continuous effort which only special organizations will be able to put forth.

My suggestion therefore is that one person or a small committee of two with a tactful and intelligent development officer of Government in daily touch with these problems should be deputed to study the problems and their solutions in other countries and submit a report on the lines of Roosevelt's Country Life Commission, embodying a scheme for the formation of a popular propagandist society like the Irish Agricultural Organization Society and pointing out the way in which the solutions could be made applicable to the conditions of this country. If such a scheme is worked in hearty co-operation between the Development Departments of Government and intelligent and public-spirited citizens, I feel sure that results not less marvellous than those which have been attained in other countries could be obtained by us in an incredibly short space of time.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I desire to make a few general observations on the budget that has been presented to us. But in doing so, it seems to me to be absolutely necessary to see whether any attention has been directed by Government to the general and detailed discussions of the budget during the first session of this House, and whether those discussions have in any way contributed to influence the administrative policy of Government to any appreciable extent. It is indeed gratifying to find that the deficit forecasted by us last year has not occurred and that an increase of revenue from an unexpected quarter, for which all of us expressed a fervent prayer, has saved us from what would otherwise have been a difficult situation. In fact there has been a *decrease* in the revenue as anticipated by us to the extent of Rs. 6½ lakhs and an increase only to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs, excluding the unexpected or "windfall" item of Rs. 4¾ lakhs. This increase of revenue is derived solely under the heads, Excise, Stamp and Interest; in respect of all other items, there has been a fall in the anticipated revenue. We find from the present budget that no increase of revenue is anticipated from these three items during the next year. We are told that the expenditure

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for the current year would be Rs. 4 lakhs less than the amount for which provision was made in the budget; this saving is mainly made up of Rs. 2¼ lakhs being the excess provision for salaries and establishments and Rs. 1¾ lakhs provided for the construction of the Delhi Palace, His Highness the Maha Raja's tour to Cochin, etc. Obviously, this reduction in expenditure has not been the result of any retrenchment policy adopted by Government but is only an accident. While we are glad to know that the amount saved from the budgeted expenditure on salaries and establishment is considerable, we are unable to understand why an exact forecast of the expenditure to be incurred was not made in the budget of the previous year. We are entitled, however, to assume that this saving also has not resulted on account of the permanent reduction or abolition of any office in any of the departments of the State and that it is *not* due to any new policy adopted by Government as a result of the discussions on the budget at the end of the previous year.

Looking back now to the proceedings of the Council of the previous year, the most important and prominent feature of the discussions that strikes us is that we were almost unanimous in the matter of the administration being top-heavy. We pointed out that the heaviest expenditure was on salaries, establishment and allowances, that this expenditure has been rapidly growing in recent years and that it was of the utmost importance that this disproportionately large amount spent upon salaries and allowances should be reduced by bringing down the pay of several of the officers, by doing away with the numerous unnecessary appointments and by a reduction of the various kinds of allowances. Instances of many unnecessary appointments in several departments of the State were brought to light and the Government were urged to dispense with these appointments. We emphasised the fact that drastic retrenchment was imperatively necessary in respect of the Revenue and some other departments of the administration. Several instances in which officers were paid far in excess of the sanctioned salary of the office to which they were appointed were also pointedly brought to the attention of the Government. This Council demanded that retrenchment should be effected in the higher grades of the service and not in the lower alone; and one member after another laid particular emphasis upon this aspect of the problem of retrenchment. Looking now to the closing year and looking into the budget that has been presented to us, I am sorry to observe that this important feature that characterised our discussions last year has not yet received sufficient consideration from the Government.

Another prominent subject of discussion in connection with the public service was with reference to certain sections of the subordinate service, particularly the class of vernacular school teachers for whom it was contended that the pay fixed was utterly inadequate. Though Government have been able to make a liberal and substantial provision by way of fee concessions to several classes of the people, no concession

has yet been granted to the demand made on behalf of these subordinates who, according to the Director of Public Instruction , are doing "very good and unselfish work".

It is thus pretty clear that the almost unanimous expression of the views of this Council that the superior services were over-paid and overmanned while certain classes of the subordinate service remained underpaid have not received sufficient consideration at the hands of the Government. The Financial Secretary says that the process of "lopping off unnecessary appointments" has been continued; obviously this process has been directed to the twigs, for we hear of no branches having fallen under the operation.

The Financial Secretary is always optimistic in regard to the financial condition of the State and this optimism is mainly derived from a consideration of the fact that the Government of India and several Indian States were experiencing serious financial difficulties at a time when we have been able to balance our budgets "without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailments in its normal expenditure". Mr. George claims credit for carrying into effect without undue strain a much-needed revision of the salaries of the subordinate services and also for embarking on various new schemes of progress and expansion and for including in the budget of 1099 as many as 58 new schemes costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs. This argument of the Financial Secretary assumes that we have not had recourse to additional taxation in recent years and that we are still in a position to spend in the ordinary way. Both of these assumptions are clearly wrong. We had as a matter of fact to resort to additional taxation by introducing the Income Tax Regulation and also by increasing school fees in 1097. The enactment of the Village Panchayat Bill contemplated by Government will prove to be another source of taxation in rural areas as the Municipal Regulation is in respect to Municipalities. In fact taxation had to be steadily resorted to, to meet the growing needs of the administration. It has also to be remembered that taxes once imposed are not withdrawn; nor are we accustomed to get remissions of tax in prosperous years when the revenue is far in excess of the ordinary requirements. Thus, even when receipts show a large surplus over expenditure, no remission of tariff duties or change in any other form of taxation ensues. Instead of utilising a surplus for reducing taxation, our policy has always been preferably to spend the surplus revenue by increasing the scale of public expenditure as is evidenced by the expenditure on departmental reorganisations and on public buildings in former days. It is therefore in the wise exercise of the discretion in spending the revenue that the prosperity of the taxpayer depends. The cry for retrenchment is not new. It was raised many years ago by the public and in the Popular Assembly; and one of the most important objects with which the question was raised was that the money available after meeting the minimum cost of the administration might be spent more profitably upon reproductive and other works of public utility and not merely because we were afraid of a deficit year after

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year. Any comparison between the financial conditions of the Imperial and other Governments with our own is absolutely beside the mark as the conditions are essentially and obviously different. It appears, therefore, to me that the real test of a successful budget lies not in its balancing the expenses with the revenue, but in the nature of the expenses to meet which the funds are made available and of the purposes for which the people want them to be applied. Judged by this test, it is doubtful whether we have reason to congratulate ourselves for the "58 new schemes costing about Rs. 3½ lakhs" provided for these purposes. It is a source of gratification, however, to find that the real situation has been grasped by the Government as is evident from the pronouncements made on several occasions; and we therefore hope that Government will be able to surmount all possible difficulties and bring about a speedy and effective solution of the problem of reducing unnecessary expenditure in all directions.

I have nothing instructive to add to the many suggestions that have already been made for the improvement of the sources of our revenue. One noticeable feature of the sources of our income is that many of these are inelastic and more or less very unsteady. While, for instance, we anticipated a fall in the excise revenue last year, the revised estimate shows that there has been an increase under this item. We estimated an increase in stamps but the revised estimate shows that there has been a fall. Instances of unrealised anticipations of revenue from these sources may be multiplied. Again, the land and forest revenues do not at all show any signs of improvement but only of decreases. It has also to be borne in mind that it was by selling *pudural* lands and forest timber that much of the revenue under these heads was being realised during several of the previous years. This cannot obviously continue. The necessity for improving these sources of revenue in order to ensure a steady income from these sources is quite apparent. I hope these are also some of the important circumstances which have to be taken into account in examining the finances of the State.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, the Financial Secretary expects a cordial reception to his budget from this House, because it is, according to him, a joint production of both the Government and the representatives of this Council on the Finance Committee. But I am sure the members of the Finance Committee will not put forward that claim. Even though we are told the committee was given the fullest opportunity to examine and freely discuss every provision contained in the budget, we are kept in the dark as to how far their opinions and criticisms have been accepted by the Government. It is necessary that, as in other places, the proceedings of the Finance Committee should be published so that the House may know and profit by their deliberations. In this connection, I feel it my imperative duty to call prominent public attention to a letter that appeared in the public press, in connection

with the question of constitutional reforms in Travancore, from Sir. P. Rajagopalachariar who was the Dewan of this State for seven years. He made it known to the public in no uncertain terms, that the whole responsibility for all actions taken in connection with the administration of the country is solely the Dewan's. It is therefore clear that, in the expenditure of nearly two crores of rupees it is the will of the Dewan alone that prevails in regard to large non-votable items. The necessity for a wider publicity of the discussions of the Finance Committee would, therefore, be admitted by all.

Though the Financial Secretary says that the budget discloses the real state of the country's finance, yet his budget for 1098 did really disguise the intention of the Government to contribute towards the preliminary expenses connected with the Cochin Harbour Scheme. Even when a pointed reference was made by Rao Bahadur Krishna Aiyangar this time last year, the Government took care not to give any answer to the point. This budget also makes no provision for any contribution for 1099. Are we to take it that no contribution would be made by our State next year? Again, the reported creation of a surgeon's place without that being included in the budget, and that during the sitting of the budget session itself, clearly proves how far the Government is sincere and honest in these vain professions.

The Finance Member congratulates himself on his being able to balance the budget without having either to resort to new taxation or to make any considerable curtailment in the normal expenditure, while all the neighbouring Governments are experiencing serious financial difficulties owing to the economic dislocation and depression of trade. Sir, it is very difficult to believe that the Finance Member would make such extravagant claims. For, what would have been the condition of our finances but for the iniquitous salt tax? The oppressing effect of this impost is as much felt by the people of this State as by those in British India. The piling of tax on tax which the last few years have witnessed here in the shape of income-tax, municipal tax, market dues, enhancement of Anchal rates, school fees, etc., will give the lie direct to this preposterous claim. We have brought ourselves to a stage when further taxation becomes dangerous and therefore should be strongly condemned.

If therefore the Government wants the wherewithal to meet the requirements of the State, it has only two ways left; firstly, developing the sources of State income in such a manner as would not adversely affect the prosperity and capacity of the people, and secondly, strictly retrenching the expenditure. Let us see how the Government have tried to solve these problems.

As to the development of the resources of the State, the budget gives us no clue in regard to the policy and intentions of the Government. At the last year's budget debate, this side of the House unanimously urged on Government the extreme necessity for the Interportal Trade Convention being reopened and revised. We are every year forced to forego an enormous portion of the customs revenue which is, in all fairness and justice, legitimately ours. Though the volume of trade has

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increased by leaps and bounds, our receipts under customs still remain poor. We look in vain in the budget to know what action the Government have taken in this matter. They have not a word to offer in regard to that unanimous representation of the non-official side of this House. The financial salvation lies only that way.

The next source of income is the receipt from the railway. It is painful to see that our receipts from this source are steadily going down and our anticipations are not being fulfilled. The Government explain that this decline is due to increase in the working expenses and interest charges. These may have *partly* contributed to this undesirable state of things; but the real cause of this steady decline will have to be looked for elsewhere. The Government do not pay the necessary attention to the proper working of the railways of the State. No attempt is being made to check and scrutinise the railway accounts. I may be permitted to echo the general feeling in the country that there is considerable leakage somewhere in the railway administration. It may be that our hands are tied by the terms of the contract. Yet it is high time that Travancore Government took effective and urgent steps to remedy this evil. People travel without tickets on our lines. The checking staff is conspicuous by its absence. A supervising agency must be appointed in regard to all these matters; otherwise the railway may become a source of considerable loss and injury to Government. The budget is studiously silent on this matter. It would have been far better if the Government had taken this House into their confidence and let them know what is really the difficulty.

Another source of income which could be profitably improved is the income from the forests. It is a matter for grave concern that the income from this important source of revenue has had a serious fall. The Government do not tell us what they propose to do to improve the situation. They appear to be biding their chance on the uncertain world factors. This is most unsatisfactory.

The next item one would like to comment upon is the receipt under Excise. Owing to corruption largely in vogue in the department, the Government lose much of the income that should have come to it legitimately. The monopoly system which has been condemned on all hands is still being retained owing to the obstinate insistence of the head of the department who managed to get it a fresh lease of life. The independent system which is in vogue in other parts of the State does not lend itself easily to corruption and other malpractices. The introduction of the independent system throughout the State would really improve this source of revenue.

Turning to the second method of improving the finances of the State, *viz.*, judicious and relentless retrenchment of expenditure, we find that the Finance Member claims that the Government have been exercising very strict economy in expenditure so much so that they were able to embark on various new schemes of progress and expansion. One

is sorry to observe that it is difficult to accept these statements as real, for, whatever may be the professions of Government, the actual condition is directly otherwise. In the name of retrenchment the Government have increased the expenditure of the State as is proved by the recent departmental reorganisations. The Government do not seem to have this idea of retrenchment always in mind. When the High Court Registrar's place became vacant, the action taken by Government in filling the place by a temporary Judge instead of by a senior Munsiff in accordance with the G. O. has resulted in a loss to Government. Is this retrenchment? Government continue to follow very often the system of appointing to posts persons with pay much higher than that fixed for such posts. The cases of the present Mint Superintendent, the Land Revenue and Police Commissioners, and the Dewan are instances in point. (*Laughter.*) The people cannot look with equanimity on this extravagant waste of public funds. The question to be considered is not whether these individuals deserve the higher pay, but whether, consistent with the resources of the State, we can afford to pay such large salaries. This system has therefore to be severely condemned. While preaching retrenchment, the Government merrily go on creating unnecessary posts in the service. The latest instances of the same are the rumoured creation of a surgeon's place in the Medical Department and the proposed addition of three lecturers in the Law College. Sir, is this the lopping off of unnecessary appointments proudly set forth by the Finance Member? We have had much of these hollow statements. Let us have some real action.

While on the subject of revenue, I may briefly refer to the school fees and the concessions recently granted by the Government. I am glad that the Government have thought it fit to grant fee concessions. But the present system of granting concessions to certain communities as a whole without reference to the capacity of the individuals concerned has to be condemned. The Government should aim at giving relief to the poor irrespective of the communities they belong to. The poor in every community deserve help; otherwise, it will be a reckless sacrifice of legitimate income. As in Cochin, we should also aim at helping the really poor in every community.

From the foregoing, it would be clear that the Government have no definite policy in the matter of systematic development of the sources of income. In the current year, the situation is saved by the salt tax which in all probability will be withdrawn by the middle of the next year. Therefore it is unsafe to go in for any recurring expenditure on the basis of this temporary special income. We should leave this income out of account when we are considering the expenditure.

Passing on to the expenditure side of the revised budget, a superficial reader might perhaps be delighted to find that a reduction of four lakhs of rupees is anticipated in the current year. But, when analysed, it will be found that it was not the result of any kind of retrenchment on the part of Government. It was due to a mistake in the calculation under

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salaries and establishment and also to the lapse of a pretty large amount, *viz.*, Rs. 2¼ lakhs which was practically locked up. If that amount had been set free, it could have been utilised for some reproductive work. On another ground also, this system of allowing such large amounts to remain in the hands of Government in excess of actual necessities has to be condemned. It gives a temptation for Government to create new and unnecessary appointments. We are not told how and why there has been a lapse of a considerable amount in the Public Works Department. Manifestly the expenditure during the current year does not give us any correct standard. As against an anticipated increase of Rs. 3 lakhs in the budget for 1098, the Government anticipate in 1099 only an increase of about Rs. 1½ lakhs in the normal income, even on the expectation of a possible improvement in the economic conditions. The increase according to the revised estimates in the normal receipts in the current year being only very small, it is difficult to believe whether our anticipations for next year will be fulfilled. The normal receipt anticipated in 1099 is only Rs. 193 lakhs and odd, while the normal expenditure for 1099, excluding the special items of *Murajapam* and the construction of a Palace at Delhi, would be Rs. 194 lakhs. A great portion of this is spent on salaries; and there is considerable discontent amongst the people owing to the fact that a major portion of this amount finds its way outside this State. This is ruinous to the State. Thus, even after reducing the allotment of expenditure in 1099 under sinking fund by Rs. ¾ lakh on the basis of a questionable policy, the transactions would end in a deficit. Is this a bright financial outlook? Does this justify the spirit of jubilation that pervades the budget speech of the Finance Member? The speech does not contain any enunciation of scheme or policy for the improvement of the material and moral condition of the people. Our financial condition being in such a sorry plight, we are entitled to ask for a judicious use of the retrenchment axe. All schemes of questionable utility and of the avoidable variety should be knocked on the head. The Assistant Superintendents of Police, the Excise Sub-Inspectors, the temporary Survey party, the Assistant Tahsildars etc., the necessity for whose retention has not been made out, must be given their go-by. The further creation of new and unnecessary posts should be made impossible. A separate allotment for leave allowances, which is a special feature in this year's budget, is unnecessary and must therefore be dropped. The Finance Member himself admits that a considerable portion of this allotment would, in all probability, lapse. It will be far better if the Government are asked to bring in revised estimates for the purpose as necessities arise, because the amount thus released will become available for profitable purposes.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Government to put into practice what they preach.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I do not think it necessary to make a long speech about the budget, nor am I prepared

to speak ill or well of the Financial Secretary in having prepared the budget placed before us, as we all know that Mr. George is not solely responsible for it, since, as he says, the committee of my brother councillors were freely consulted and their opinions formed the basis of the present budget. But the non-official members have denied the statement that they were freely consulted. They had no voice in every matter and every item connected with the budget. A financial standing committee can become useful only if the non-official members are permitted to have their say on each and every item of the budget. It is hoped that, next year, the official as well as the non-official members will be able to so put their heads together as to present to this House a unanimously agreed budget which will prove more useful to the public.

Taken all in all, the budget for 1099 may be characterised as hopeful rather than gloomy. Taking the opinion of the Financial Secretary at its face value, the current year as well as the next year will result in a surplus even without the increase of salt tax in spite of the fact that a total amount of Rs. 8 lakhs has to be spent in 1099 for four special non-recurring items.

I shall confine my remarks to a few departments. Even last year I had my say on the earnings of the Travancore Railway. In spite of the explanation given by Mr. George for the fall of income under this head, I am inclined to believe with some of my brother members that "there is something rotten in the State of Denmark". Although Cochin owns only 64 miles of railway, the income therefrom is very high and next only to land revenue; but while Travancore owns a railway about 100 miles long, the earnings therefrom are found insufficient even to pay the guaranteed interest, although the fares are now doubled. The accounts, as I said last year, require more close and strict scrutiny.

We do fully hope, Sir, that the Kottarakara-Alwaye extension will become an accomplished fact during your glorious administration. Yesterday, Mr. Mackie touched an unpleasant chord concerning our railway administration. The rolling stock used in the Travancore line is the worst of the lot. Money spent by Travancore for purchase of fresh stock is not utilised within Travancore. Travancore can claim none of the rolling stock as her own, for everything is stamped with the S. I. R. mark. This is not the case in the Cochin Railway. This also deserves serious attention on the part of the Government.

The Travancore Public Works Department is divided into five divisions for administrative purposes. Of these five, Alwaye Division is the largest, including as it does a major portion of the Devicolam Division. Of the Rs. 25½ lakhs allotted for the department I deeply regret to find that this, the largest Division, gets only the smallest share, *viz.*, about Rs. 2,15,000. Out of this small amount Rs. 1½ lakhs goes for incomplete works and only about Rs. 70,000 is left for new works. Another calculation reveals a sadder tale, for the P. W. Division of Alwaye is comprised

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of three sub-divisions and a major portion of the allotted amount is earmarked for one sub-division alone, namely, Devicolam; while the six taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Vaikam and Sherttallai together get only a very insignificant amount, not coming over to 3 per cent of the whole grant for P. W. proper. In having prepared this kind of budget, it is evident that the official as well as the non-official members of the Finance Committee have entirely ignored the legitimate claims, interests and needs of a large population living in these six taluks and paying to Government a larger share of revenue than any other similar area of Travancore. Repeated complaints from these people for the construction of various important public works absolutely necessary for their everyday life are remaining cries in the wilderness. This grievous state of affairs deserves to be remedied at the earliest opportunity. In this connection, I have only to state that the complaint made by my learned friend the Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli, deserves to be reiterated with tenfold force. To one urgent work alone, I shall draw your kind attention. During the rainy season of the year, numerous people, including a large number of students, have to cross the Alwaye river to and fro. Loss of life is not infrequent. A bridge over the river is a long-standing necessity. I regret to find that repeated representations on the subject in the Popular Assembly have fallen on deaf ears.

The only two other departments of which I wish to speak are those of Agriculture and Industries. Travancore is fortunate in having as the heads of these two departments, two gentlemen of high education and specialists in their own lines. Under them the departments are efficiently managed. They are ever ready to do any help to the people; and yet, Sir, there is a dark side of the picture. In spite of the heavy expenditure incurred by the State to maintain these two departments and the close attention and untiring efforts of the heads of these two departments, it is to be deeply regretted that the people have not derived any adequate benefit. The output of paddy or cocoanut or any other agricultural products has not in my opinion shown any increase worth mentioning. The net result of the working of the Industries Department is also not encouraging.

With the above few observations I resume my seat, with the fervent hope that my suggestions will receive careful consideration at the hands of the members on both sides of this House.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, before I proceed to discuss about the budget of income and expenditure of the State, I should like to say a few words about the loud complaints regarding retrenchment of expenses under service heads incurred by Government year after year.

In this connection I am forced to quote the well-known maxim:

"If to do were as easy as to preach, chapels had been churches and poor man's cottages princes' palaces".

To my Tamil friends I may quote "சொல்லு தல்யார்க்கும் எழிதாம், இழாம் சொல்லியவண்ணம் செயல்".

And to my Malayalam-knowing friends, "എളുപ്പത്തിൽ ഏതും പറയാം, കാര്യം വഹിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണു."

We loudly talk of reduction of expenses under the salaries of Government officers but the difficulty lies in reducing the same. We attack Government and heads of departments for appointing new officers, for the creation of new departments and for constituting several committees for varying purposes. If the facts are clearly analysed, it will be seen that we alone are responsible for the increased expenditure. By saying '*we*' I do not mean the members of this House alone, but I include under the category the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the members of the Development Board and the influential gentlemen of the State.

We approach the Dewan and the heads of the various departments with requests to make provisions in the State service for our sons, nephews, friends, relations etc., and they being men, are obliged to yield to our requests with the result that several new appointments are made year after year and the expenditure swells; and so, as long as cravings for State service exist among the people, the State expenditure on that account is bound to increase. Until we value education for its own sake and not as a means to enter Government service we should blame ourselves and not the Government for the high expenditure under service heads.

Sir, now let me take a few important sources of revenue and submit in general the merits and demerits, and suggest, according to what I think proper, the several ways of improving the same. Of the various sources of revenue, it is an admitted fact that nearly one-half is derived from the Excise Department. This revenue can never be stationary and it is liable to fluctuation owing to various causes the enumeration of which in detail, I am afraid, would cause you, Sir, to stop me when the time allotted to me is exceeded. The excise revenue when once lost by oversight is lost for ever. To get the maximum revenue, careful and effective management of the Department is highly necessary. To attain this object, a re-adjustment of the several Divisions of the Department should be made.

At present the method of work in the Excise Department is throughly unsatisfactory. There are as many as eleven divisions, and I think this is the largest number of divisions that any head of a department has to deal with in Travancore; and the Excise Commissioner who is the head of the Department has to carry on correspondence with these eleven subordinate officers and with the Goaernment. His office work being heavy, it is absolutely impossible to expect him to effectively control the work of his subordinate officers and to devote the requisite time to the solution of very many important questions. The annual number of communications sent out from the Excise Commissioner's office is about 18,000 so that it gives a monthly

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average of 1,500 and a daily average of 75 calculated on a basis of 20 working days in a month. No argument is necessary to convince you, Sir, that this number is certainly too much for a single officer. It may be argued that most of the communications are of a routine nature and are attended to by the personal assistant. I may state in reply that all powers including that of granting a day's casual leave to a peon are vested in the Excise Commissioner and he has to pass orders in regard to each and every subject. It is only after the orders are passed by him that the assistant is allowed to sign and the communication is despatched. The second objection is that the system now in force provides for only one controlling officer, *viz.*, the present Division Officer, besides the Excise Commissioner, to control the revenue. And, as I have submitted, the Excise Commissioner, for no fault of his, has not the time to check the work of his subordinates; and I seriously submit that the Division Officers are practically supreme in their own divisions. *It will be unfair* to expect the Excise Commissioner to effectively control the work of his immediate subordinates having regard to the largeness of the Department. The Division Officers have been left to themselves without close control being exercised over them. I am led to think that much revenue will be lost on this account. It is aboslutely necessary in the intersts of revenue and efficiency to provide another class of controlling officers between the present Division Officers and the Excise Commissioner. Such an officer will have the opportunity of very frequently inspecting each place in his jurisdiction and of checking the work of the present Division Officer. I am certain that if this is done there will be a considerable improvement in the revenue. No additional expenditure will be necessary, for, three out of the eleven circles may then be conveniently abolished and these officers may be made Deputy Commissioners over the eight circles. I do not think that the method of forming the eight Excise circles need be submitted in this discussion. To obtain the maximum revenue from the Excise Department, a readjustment of the same on the lines suggested above is highly necessary.

In British India and in other places the Excise Department has more than one controlling officer in addition to the Excise Commissioner. In Madras where the system is worked on the most up-to-date lines and where in consequence the maximum revenue is being realised, the system provides three controlling officers, *viz.*, the Assistant Excise Commissioner, the District Commissioner and the Commissioner, over the excise officers.

The conditions in Travancore are more difficult and we have more branches under the control of the Department with only one set of controlling officers. As one who has vey closely moved with all kinds of Excise officers and who has a fairly accurate knowledge of the working of the Department, I make bold to state that the present system is extremely detrimental to the realisation and growth of revenue and should be changed at once. I have stated this view on more than one occasion

in the Popular Assembly. Sir, as this House is the proper place to put in a proposal of the kind, I feel sure that the Government will take up the question in all seriousness and bring about a thorough change in the working of the Department as detailed above.

Sir, there is one other point which I wish to submit in this connection. The present system under ordinary circumstances cannot be expected to give a change of work to the Division Officers till their retirement. The Excise Department *is no bed of roses* and it requires every day field-work, and I need not submit that any officer is not fit for it beyond a certain age. Naturally there should be a neglect of work and consequently inefficient administration when the officer is asked to do field-work which he is not physically able to do. In every department, a change of work has been provided for. The Tahsildar becomes a Division Assistant and then a Peishkar. The Assistant Superintendent of Police becomes a District Superintendent of Police in the natural course. The Munsiff becomes a Sub-Judge, then a District Judge and finally a High-Court Judge, if capable. The Assistant Engineer is promoted as an Executive Engineer in due course, if not higher as in the case of our present Chief Engineer; and the above remarks are applicable to the Medical and other departments too. I cannot see any reason why the Excise Department alone, where there is the heaviest and most responsible work, should be asked to work with only one set of controlling officers. The details connected with the change may be worked by Government in consultation with the Excise Commissioner. I am sure the Excise Commissioner will surely and sincerely support the proposal. With these few words, I beg to propose that the recommendation may be kindly accepted by Government.

Another point for consideration is that each section of the Secretariat should be in charge of an officer who has a thorough knowledge of the working of the department of which he is in charge. The Development Section under which the Excise Department together with others are placed should be in charge of an experinced Assistant Excise Commissioner, as, when compared with other branches under that Section, it is the Excise Department that brings the highest revenue worth mentioning. The Excise Department consists of several branches such as abkari, tobacco, customs and salt, and is answerable for nearly half the revenue of the State. Very many complicated questions touching all branches of excise and customs administration daily come up before Government for disposal. The Government are seriously handicapped in bestowing proper attention on any of these questions, because there is no trained officer who has a thorough knowledge of the subject in charge of the section. I do not mean any disparagement personally to the officer concerned, as I know he is one of the best officers we have in the State. Further, the views of the Excise Commissioner are not subjected to scrutiny in the Secretariat under the present arrangement. As the revenue of the Department is varying and as the Department alone brings a large amount of revenue to the

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coffers of the State and is *thus very important* in maintaining the financial equilibrium of the State, no amount of care bestowed on the working of the department under reference will be too much.

Further there are many important questions yet awaiting solution in the Department; and I need hardly state that the Government certainly requires expert assistants in the Secretariat to tackle these questions without much difficulty. In regard to the other departments included in the Development Section, one or two officers from other departments may, if necessary, be appointed as his assistants. Sir, I submit this suggestion solely in the interests of efficiency and of revenue, and I feel no doubt that it will be accepted by Government.

A few words in *re.* the abolition of abkari *in toto*. At present the abkari brings in a revenue of more than Rs. 20 lakhs. The Government cannot forego that revenue by the total abolition of liquor shops. I am strongly of opinion - and I hope the House will agree with me in saying—that the people alone are responsible for the maintenance of liquor shops and not the Government. If Government abolish the liquor shops there will be loss of revenue and the drinking population who, I am sure, form the major portion will resort to all malpractices for obtaining liquor and no amount of vigilance on the part of Government to check it will have any effect. Let not the people visit the shops and they will be closed in due course, just as the Munsiff's court at Devakottai was abolished for want of suits from Nattukottai Chetties for a period of six months. *We* are in fact to blame and not the Government for maintaining liquor shops.

A word with regard to the lot of complaints laid at the door of the Excise Commissioner for keeping open liquor shops after 8 P. M. It is most uncharitable to blame the Excise Commissioner on this ground as the opening of shops during late hours in the night is also entirely due to our fault, I mean, the fault of the drinking population. After attending dramas and other performances on the way home, many knock at the door of the ale house and the keeper of the same dare not refuse to open the door without exposing himself to serious consequences. Is the Commissioner responsible for such acts? Is there anybody in this House to suggest any remedy for such acts?

I have much to submit about the improvements to be effected in the salt factories of the State in the interests of revenue and to make them self-supporting in the yield of salt for State consumption. Reduction of establishment charges in the factories could also be made by readjustment of the jurisdiction of Inspectors in the factories. For want of time I shall take some other opportunity to submit a detailed scheme about the same.

Now, coming to land revenue, which is the most important source of revenue, I do not think there is much scope for enlarging it without throwing additional burdens on the agricultural population whose position at present is deplorable. Of course, there is some little scope for in-

creasing the revenue by the registry of marshy lands in mountains ; but I am strongly of opinion that there will be considerable difficulties in bringing these lands under proper cultivation, as the crops raised are subject to destruction by wild beasts.

In the interests of Government revenue and in the interests of ryots to avoid suits in the civil courts a clear demarcation of the boundaries of holdings is of paramount importance. The survey effected during the last settlement is very defective. The demarcation in the survey maps generally does not tally with the lie of the lands as occupied by the ryots. If possible, a resurvey is highly necessary ; and if the Government are of opinion that the work entrusted to the Assistant Tahsildars tends to remedy the evil complained of above, I do not think that this House should grudge to allow the maintenance of Assistant Tahsildars for some time more, if by so doing some substantial work could be expected from them not in the shape of fines now enforced upon the ryots for so-called encroachments and for no fault of theirs, but by the assumption of Government lands from unauthorised occupants and the sale of the same. With regard to the sale of tank-beds in the Southern Division, I beg to submit that the policy adopted by the Government is not sound ; for, if any unforeseen things happen in the main work of Pachipparai, the consequences will be serious and so it is better to maintain the existing tanks.

Coming to forests, I have to submit that a change in the methods of working of the Department is absolutely necessary. In obtaining the revenue from forests the principles that should be adopted are as follow :—

(1) There shall be no slackness in obtaining the full value of forest growth such as *cetas*, bamboos, etc., which are liable to destruction periodically.

(2) All forest produce should be carefully collected and sold each year.

(3) All dead trees, of course, including the trees blown down by the wind or other causes, should be worked down to the depôts and their value should be realised.

(4) The capture and sale of elephants may with advantage be pursued.

(5) With regard to the supply of timber to the depôts the present system of supply should be avoided and supply should be regulated according to the demand as there is no use in supplying timber to the depôts and placing ourselves at the mercy of merchants. The result of the present system is that in the close of the year the timber in the depôts is sold for any price to make up the revenue, and the value realised is sometimes far below the working charges of timber. The trees in the forests are just like gold and silver bullion in stock which could be converted into coin at any time. The value derived from the sale of timbers cannot be regarded as revenue. Timber is money in a different shape and it should be converted into money when the highest value can be had for it.

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Income tax is a good source of income to the Government as it affects only the rich men and the major portion of the revenue is obtained from business men. I need not submit that the business world suffers very much on account of the money market being very tight. If business thrives, there will be ample scope for great revenue in the shape of income tax. Without crying over the past, I should like to bring to the consideration of Government the extreme importance of investing the sinking funds, interest derived from money invested in British India bonds, and all other sums available for investment should in future be made available to the business men of the State on the security of landed properties at moderate interest so as to relieve them from the clutches of Shylocks. If that is done, business will prosper, greater profits will be ensured and the natural consequence will be that the Government will get double the income tax now budgeted for.

Stamp duties and registration fees may be enhanced. In the case of purchase of lands, it is the vendee that bears the cost and not the vendor, whereas in the case of hypothecation a proportionate reduction should be made as debtors bear the cost and not the creditors.

Coming to education, I have to submit that concession in the matter of fees to backward communities in education is good, but such concession should be given not to the rich men of the backward community, but to the poor among them.

I have to make a few observations with regard to the present policy of adjusting expenditure in proportion to the income likely to be derived. The expected income may not be forthcoming. Let me take for example the increment on salt income due to enhanced duty. If the consumption is reduced by a lakh of maunds there will be a fall of Rs. 2½ lakhs in salt income and so I am of opinion that in the policy to be pursued in budgeting expenditure, due provision should be made for all unforeseen contingencies. One can make as much as possible by all legal and moral ways but he should make a reserve of at least one-tenth of the total income if not more, so as to make it available when unforeseen circumstances crop in one's lifetime. What is applicable to a family is applicable to Government in a larger scale and I beg to propose that, in future, the Government should make it a rule to reserve one-tenth of the total revenue of the State and to accumulate the same by such reservation from year to year so as to enable them to be free masters to utilise the accumulated sum when unexpected expenses like the establishment of a separate University for Travancore have to be met from State funds.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, the budget estimates for the year have been subjected to very severe criticism by the several members who spoke upon the subject and very little remains for me to add to the discussion on the subject. Nevertheless, it appears to me that I may make one or two useful observations on the budget. Even a superficial study of our financial transactions for the last ten years will show that the attempt of the Financial Department has been always

to secure or effect what is known as balancing the budget. Balancing the budget means, in Travancore, according to the Finance Member of the State, adjusting the expenditure of the State to the revenue. From the standpoint of the tailor who cuts the coat according to the cloth it may be all right. We might congratulate the tailor for having made the coat according to the cloth. We cannot at the same time congratulate the wearer always on the coat made for him. The object, it appears to me, in making a budget must be not so much to adjust the expenditure to the revenue as to find out means for meeting all legitimate demands of the State, especially what are known as the needs of a progressive administration. Far from doing this, the Travancore budgets of the last ten years, if examined, will show that the income of the State has not been progressively augmented by finding new sources of revenue. Then what has actually happened is a systematic cutting down of expenditure especially in directions in which such retrenchment is least defensible. I tried to point out last year in my speech that, whenever retrenchment was found to be necessary in order to adjust expenditure to income, what was done was to stop all original works in regard to communications and buildings in the P. W. Department. Of course, that mode of retrenchment was chosen for the simple reason that it involved little or no curtailments in salaries. Nevertheless it appears to me that, in spite of such attempts, it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance the budget and to make a surplus. The revenue of the State has increased from Rs. 163 lakhs in 1092 to Rs. 2 crores in 1097, *i. e.*, it has increased by 23 per cent, while the expenditure has risen during the same period from Rs. 153 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores, *i. e*, by 31 per cent. From that one fact alone it will be seen that hereafter it will be very difficult to make both ends meet or to prepare a balanced budget as has been done this year.

Now we have also to take into account other matters which probably have been lost sight of, such as the reorganisation of the Devaswom Department. The separation of that department from the Revenue Department has reduced the available income of the State for general administrative purposes by over Rs. 7 lakhs; because, I find from a comparison of the actual expenditure on Devaswoms prior to and after 1097 that whereas the same has formerly varied between Rs. 13 and Rs. 14 lakhs, the budget expenditure for the year 1098 was Rs. 19 lakhs and for 1099 Rs. 20 lakhs. This is due to the fact that a separate Devaswom Fund had to be created on account of the Royal Proclamation; and whether that fund is utilised for Devaswom expenditure or not, no portion will be returned for general administration purposes. Thus the available resources for meeting ordinary administrative expenses have been reduced clearly by Rs. 7 lakhs. This certainly has added to the difficulties of the budget-maker.

Now if we look ahead, we must also see that the Excise Department from which we expect and realise the largest amount of revenue to feed the administration is bound to be affected in the future. I mean that excise revenue is bound to be affected in course of time

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owing to the anti-tapping and the anti-drinking movements. It has been declared over and over again by the Government that it is not their policy to obtain *revenue* from the Excise or, at any rate, from the Abkari Department, and that it is their aim to reduce drink as much as possible so that in course of time the evil may be eradicated altogether. The cautious financier ought therefore to see that in course of time the revenue from the Abkari Department amounting to 20 or 25 lakhs of rupees must really be wiped out. If that is so, the so-called balancing of the budget must before long become not only difficult but almost impossible, the expenditure having gone up too high for the ordinary revenues of the State, which, with the existing resources alone, cannot increase to any appreciable extent.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that it may be possible and that the expenditure can be balanced, is, after all, balancing the budget an end in itself or a very desirable end in itself? If we look ahead do we not find circumstances which show that before long the Government would have to commit themselves to a very large expenditure of money in various directions? If we rest content by merely keeping our finances balanced according to the Financial Secretary, how are we to find funds? Take for instance the Education Department. The amount spent upon primary education, the free provision of which, I consider, is the primary duty of the Government, has increased to over 16 to 17 lakhs of rupees. Nevertheless, the percentage of school-going children actually attending schools at present is only 55·8. This is certainly a sad state of affairs and therfore the expansion of primary education is of very great importance. We have to provide accommodation in schools for over 45 per cent. more of the school-going population of the country. For the purpose of providing accommodation for them a great capital expenditure would be necessary. Assuming for the sake of argument that all the schools that are necessary for extending primary education will be built at the cost of the public, as they have been for some time past, the recurring expenditure upon primary education will be so great that Government will find it impossible in course of time to find funds for financing a scheme of universal primary education. Surely the Government cannot remain content with only 55 per cent. attending schools while the rest have absolutely no education at all. About nine years ago a bill to provide for compulsory primary education was introduced into this Council. But owing to the then financial condition of the country, it was not possible for the Council to accept it. Since then several municipalities in British India have accepted the policy of compulsory elementary education. I am quite sure that, but for the financial strain which fell upon the Government owing to the war conditions, the question would have been pressed again for serious consideration at the hands of the Government. Therefore, that is one question which will soon come up for consideration and for which a large amount of money will have to be found.

Another problem which the Government will have to face is the pay and prospects of the vernacular school teachers. These vernacular school teachers are paid hardly better than the duffadars of certain offices. They are all men of moderate education and intelligence and probably most of them are married and have a family to maintain. How long are the Government going to allow these people to live with a family upon Rs. 14 per mensem? The teachers have long been agitating for the betterment of their salaries and prospects; but for the unsympathetic attitude of the department towards the movement, the agitation would have gone on and probably forced the hands of the Government to do something in that direction.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is the demand on the finances which the Government have already recognised by appointing the University Committee for considering the question of the establishment of a local University. Whether it is to be a Travancore University or a *Pan*-Kerala University, I do not wish to enter into any detail except to indicate that, if this University is not intended to be a mere notice-board University but a really useful University, it is expected to cost a considerable amount of money in capital outlay as well as in recurring expenditure. According to the estimate provided for in the last University Committee's report, the capital expenditure itself would come to about Rs. 61 lakhs and the recurring expenditure to Rs. 7 lakhs. That is another direction in which the Government will have soon to meet an expenditure and be forced to find funds.

Then, again, Sir, so far as I know, the Travancore Government have not yet paid any attention to what is known as poor relief. We know that, in the Municipal Regulation, provision has been made for preventing vagrancy and begging in the streets. Nevertheless we know the heart-rending sight we see every day in the streets of the important towns of the State and in market places of hundreds of beggars troubling the wayfarers for the purpose of getting alms and exposing loathsome wounds and contagious diseases. Now, that is a problem which the Government will have soon to tackle, and that also will require money; and as the Government cannot put off providing for that to any indefinite future, the question must soon arise for decision, and funds will have to be found for that.

Then again, Sir, the Development Departments are every day clamouring for more and more funds. Whatever may be our opinion in regard to the success which these departments have attained till now, that these departments are full of potentialities for the State in future cannot be denied; and the Government will have, in future, from year to year, to increase the expenditure and allot larger sums of money for the working of these departments.

The P. W. Department is very well kept up and very well paid from the standpoint of the officers of Government and their salaries. From the standpoint of the benefit directly accruing to the people from

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the allotment, very little attention has been paid. From an estimate which I made from the budget for this year, I find that little more than Rs. 1 lakh has been allotted for the purpose of original works, in the matter of 'communications'. For the taluk which I have the honor to represent, I find a sum of Rs. 5,832 has been allotted for original works--communications. That is one of the taluks of the State which require great development in this direction, for roads, bridges, culverts and canals are necessary for properly developing that taluk. Yet the amount of money allotted for that taluk is only Rs. 5,832. This, I submit, must be the condition of several other taluks in the northern parts of the State, such as Shertallai, Changanachery, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, and Minachil. These are places which require development by improving the communications and putting up decent buildings for schools and other purposes. Yet the allotment made for this purpose is very inadequate and unsatisfactory.

These are some of the directions in which the Government will have to meet a very great expenditure of money in future, and if we only keep on balancing our budget as the Financial Secretary has been trying to do, I do not know how we shall be able to find funds for meeting the needs of a progressive administration, if the expression 'meeting the needs of a progressive administration' is to mean anything at all. Of course, much has been said about retrenchment without unduly starving the needs of progressive administration. I submit these are directions in which the needs of a progressive administration are to be met, and if these needs are as a matter of fact starved, I do not know what justice there is in the claim that the needs of a progressive administration have not been unduly starved. In order to find funds for all these, retrenchment has to be made in directions which have already been pointed out by my friends on this side of the House and new sources of revenue have to be tapped. In regard to this retrenchment, it appears to me that the greatest condemnation of the Government was made by Mr. Karayalar who spoke in support of Government in many directions, because he seems to think that Government have created several appointments not because the Government felt the need for these appointments but as a result of the representations or requests by the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly members, the Legislative Council members or important citizens in the State and so on and so forth. I do not admit that this is true. But if there is any truth in this condemnation made by Mr. Karayalar of the action of Government, I think it is time that that is removed. The various directions in which retrenchment should be effected have already been mentioned; and I do not wish to go over them again. Several new sources of revenue have also been mentioned by the previous speakers; and I have nothing more to add in respect of them.

Now I have only one word more and I have done. That is with regard to the Finance Committee. I regret that there should have been any discussion in regard to the part that the non-official members of the

Finance Committee took in its deliberations and I also deprecate—at any rate, I do not think that the Finance Member need have made such a claim for the infallibility of the budget on the ground that it was subjected to the close scrutiny of the members of the Finance Committee. Of course, the Finance Member himself knows more than anybody else or as much as any other member of the Finance Committee what it was that took place. All that Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai meant to say, I think, was that, taking into consideration the very restricted scope of the Finance Committee for shaping and guiding the policy of the Government in matters of retrenchment and the tapping of additional sources of revenue and so forth, the claim of the Finance Member that the budget is the result of the joint labours of the Finance Committee and the Government and that therefore it should be acceptable to the Council is not well founded. I think nothing more than that was meant by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, and probably that was felt necessary on account of the great claim made by the Finance Member. I do not wish to say anything more with respect to that.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to offer a few general observations on the budget estimates for 1099. At the outset, I may point out that the work of the non-official minority on the Finance Committee has been somewhat disappointing. On the one hand, it is contended that the non-officials were not given an opportunity of discussing new schemes involving additional expenditure, while, on the other hand, it is stated that the work of initiating measures involving additional expenditure ought not to be in the hands of non-officials. The non-official representatives on the committee will tell the House if they placed before the Finance Committee any scheme or plan for reducing expenditure or for adding to the efficiency and usefulness of the services, and if any of them were vetoed by the official majority. We are not, however, in a position to know what are the 58 new schemes contemplated in the budget. The impression left in my mind is that the joint labours of the Government and our representatives have resulted in bringing forth a mouse. For, the budget of 1099 differs in no material particular from that of 1093. The same old hopes and fears are there. It may be called a deficit budget or a surplus budget according to the temperament of the critic or the angle of vision he chooses to take. I am not sure if much constructive ability is required to make up the fall of revenue in one department by a proportionate cut in one of the spending or development departments.

I am sure the Council is not in a position to know whether the money sanctioned by it last year has been well spent or not. To know this, it is necessary that the actuals of the preceding year as well as the administration reports of the departments must be before the Council, when it is called upon to vote on grants for the succeeding year. I would suggest that, if necessary, the financial year may be made to commence some time after the close of the calendar year. However, it is a matter of the utmost importance that the annual reports of the working of each department should be made available to the non-officials of the Council.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

It has become a fashion for the Financial Secretary as well as heads of revenue-yielding departments to indulge in expressions such as "economic dislocation", "trade depression ", " financial stringency" and so forth. I have not been able to understand what data the officers have for using these and kindred expressions. There has been no economic survey of the country. From the volumes of statistics published by the Government, I find hardly any justification for applying these terms to the conditions in Travancore. Statistics show that the total value of trade rose steadily from Rs. 629 and odd lakhs in 1088 to Rs. 747 and odd lakhs in 1092, to Rs. 904 and odd lakhs in 1094, to Rs. 1,140 and odd lakhs in 1096 and to Rs. 1,234 and odd lakhs in 1097. If the value of imports is at all an indication of the purchasing power of the people, it will be seen that it rose steadily from Rs. 241 and odd lakhs in 1088 to Rs. 336 and odd lakhs in 1094 and to 493 and odd lakhs in 1097. I am, therefore, curious to know the Financial Secretary's reasons for saying that Travancore was seriously affected by the economic dislocation elsewhere, along with all the provincial Governments and several of the Indian States. I contend that there has been hardly any necessity to adopt "a cautious and prudential policy" in regard to the finances of the State and that the policy adopted has been anything else than cautious and prudential. We find the revision of salaries has brought about a recurring expenditure of Rs. 86 lakhs annually, without proportionately adding to the efficiency of the services. Mr. George claims to have continued the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments; but he is careful to add, "as opportunities offered themselves". The Council will be glad to hear if the opportunities alluded to, are anything but the death or retirement of incumbents, (*laughter*) for many of whom the respective places have been specially created.

Mr. Mackie, who is the Manager of a business concern, perhaps bigger than the South Indian Railway Company, has rightly pointed out the causes that lead to the loss in the railway management. There could be no severer and more authoritative condemnation of the management of the railway. The question of railway management is unfortunately a forbidden ground for the non-official members. In answer to my interpellation, it was stated that the Council could not be allowed to have even a peep at the agreement with the South Indian Railway Company. I appeal to the Law Member to look into this document and tell the House if the Government are really in such a hopelessly helpless condition as not to be able at least to check the accounts of the company. (*Laughter.*) If the Law Member's opinion is unfavourable, Government might well adopt one of two courses. Either refuse to make good the deficit, in which case all the Company's accounts could be scrutinised in a court of law (*laughter*) or adopt Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's suggestion of assessing the Company for income tax, when all the accounts will have to be laid bare before Mr. Robinson. (*Laughter.*) Anyhow, it is high time that the Government do look into this matter.

I regret that the sagacious warning thrown out by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar regarding the investment in the Cochin Harbour was not given due consideration by the Government. At the time of the general discussion, this time last year, the Deputy President pressed for an answer to his question why the provision for the Cochin Harbour scheme was said to have lapsed and why no provision was made for the purpose in the budget of 1098. Of course, he said he would wait for the answer if the question was in a stage of confidential discussion and negotiation. He waited and all of us waited; and the answer has been the investment of Rs. 3 lakhs in the business. I do not share Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's optimism that the scheme will stimulate the external trade of Travancore. With due deference, I beg to differ from him and hold just the contrary opinion. I understand that one of the Port Officers at Alleppey had submitted a scheme for the development of a harbour at Neendakara in Quilon. I am told that it is possible to construct a harbour at Quilon to hold about 200 vessels, at a cost of about Rs. 3 lakhs. We are not in a position to know what share of the cost of the Cochin scheme will have to be borne by Travancore. We are sure that the participation in the Cochin scheme would annihilate all hopes of Travancore, with all its natural facilities, ever having a harbour of its own.

The speech of the Financial Secretary is barren of suggestions for developing the resources of the State. We have not been told what the sure sources of recurring revenue are, to meet the ever-growing recurring expenditure. I agree with Mr. Madhava Variar in the suggestions made for tapping new sources of revenue. If the suggestions are not accepted and acted upon, we shall soon have to face a deficit for meeting which new taxation will have to be resorted to. That is a contingency which has to be averted at any cost.

Again, we are not aware how the deposits with the Government are being disposed of. It is necessary that the deposits bearing interest should be invested in reproductive projects which would fetch a higher rate of interest than that which the Government have undertaken to pay. In France and other countries, they are automatically transferred to the Co-operative Department where they would fetch a higher rate of interest.

I regret to notice that the Rs. 4¾ lakhs received on account of the enhancement of the duty on salt and Rs. 2½ lakhs expected to be realised in the coming year are treated as ordinary revenue. This sum belongs to the poor and I would strongly urge that the whole amount be invested in some reproductive scheme which would benefit even the humblest and the poorest citizen in the State, such as irrigation works, or the connecting of the Quilon-Shencottah with the Shoranur-Cochin line. To employ it otherwise would be an injustice to the poor. In this connection, I may point out that Government would have done well if they had given up the "recoveries on account of charges incurred in the sale of salt". In 1097, the charges under this head came up to Rs. 2,83,251. It cannot be said that the actual cost of supervision

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and transport is more than one anna in the maund. The abolition of this charge would have reduced the price of salt by about eight annas per maund and would have been gratefully appreciated by the poor people.

It is a matter for great consolation that the possibilities of economy and retrenchment are fully recognised by the Government. At the time Mr. Kunjitomman brought his resolution to curtail the salaries of officers in such a way that it may not exceed 30 per cent. of the total revenues, I had some hesitation in accepting the resolution. Since then, I had the privilege of working on the Government Press Committee. It was found possible, in that institution, to reduce the cost under salaries of the employees by about Rs. 500 a month. My non-official colleagues on the committee and myself have since been convinced that appreciable reductions could be made in the cost of salaries by abolishing superfluous posts and amalgamating others. without in the least impairing the efficiency of the services. The Judicial, Police and Excise Departments may be mentioned as instances where there is prolific waste in salary. By a careful and judicious application of the pruning knife, the present percentage of salary to revenue could be cut down by 7 per cent. or more. At the time of the discussion of Mr. Kunjitomman's resolution, the Financial Secretary stated that some retrenchmant could be effected here and there, for which he contended that a committee is not necessary. I regret to find that Mr. George has made no mention in his speech about the retrenchment he undertook to effect in salaries. I think that, by the appointment of a committee, a reduction of some lakhs could be effected in this direction.

It is high time, Sir, that the Government do pause and take note of the increase under education. The cost is going on alarmingly increasing. I do not think it the duty of the State to provide free of cost anything more than primary education, irrespective of caste or class. I am not satisfied that the system of education now followed is of the right sort. The Director has laid down the same prescription whether the pupil is the son of an officer, farmer, merchant, weaver, potter, blacksmith, barber or washerman. I am of opinion that a very considerable reduction in expenditure could be made by the abolition of several of the Higher Grade Vernacular Schools and by the amalgamation of the Higher Grade Vernacular and Lower Grade Secondary Schools, as in Cochin and Mysore. The cost of education has become prohibitive also from the standpoint of the parent or the guardian of the pupil. The cost incurred in buying note-books for the present-day student would have been enough to meet all his educational expenses a few years ago. The Council will have to tackle this problem very seriously during this session.

The starving of the P. W. D. allotment under communications, the policy of the present Chief Engineer in putting obstacles in the way

of expenditure of the allotted sums, the inability of the Forest Department to compete with Burma teak, the treatment of the Development Departments, the money spent by the experts in experimenting in oil and leather, as if we could not take advantage of the results of the study and research made elsewhere, the method of land records maintenance and the administration of justice are matters which require more than a passing reference.

I trust that all these matters will receive that serious and dispassionate consideration of the House which they deserve, as each demand is being voted upon.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, the budget that has been so ably presented by the Financial Secretary shows that we have made a further progress in the shaping of our budgets. For, it is a document in the production of which both the Government and the representatives of this Council jointly laboured. Though the function assigned to our representatives in the framing of our budgets was only advisory, I have no doubt that they will be given more and more powers, in course of time if they work in a spirit of confidence and sympathy. Anyhow the creation of a Finance Committee is a distinct advance and the participation of our representatives in the deliberations of the committee are bound to produce immense good to the country. Mr. George therefore claims a cordial reception of the budget at our hands. For my part, I may assure him that there will be no lack of cordiality wherever it is possible for me to show.

We have again to complain about the late production of the budget for the next year and the late arrival of the preliminary edition, as it is called, into our hands. It would be a great advantage to the several departments and to the members of this Council if the budget discussion is held in the Medam session.

The Government and the Financial Secretary have to be congratulated that they have been able to balance the budget without resorting to new taxation; but not the people of Travancore who have been burdened by the enhancement of the salt duty by an authority over which we have no control, and nobody need grudge if Mr George has taken advantage of this windfall in balancing his budget. The budget under discussion, however, appears to be a record of the struggle which the Financial Secretary has apparently made to withstand the demands made by the other departments. I am quite sure that he has put up a very brave fight against the demands made by my friend Mr. Natesa Aiyar and by his other colleagues for new schemes of communications and other works of public utility. He had evidently to shut his ears and eyes against the clamours of the taxpayers of North Travancore for railway extension and irrigation projects which are overdue.

Nevertheless, Mr. George refers to 58 new schemes of development in his budget speech, hatched no doubt with the help of our representatives. When I listened to that portion of his speech, I thought by the end of next year our country would be a veritable paradise. But on scrutiny the whole thing turned out to be a case of the mountain bringing forth a mouse. These 58 new schemes are only petty undertakings

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of an experimental kind. If some portions of the money allotted for these 58 new schemes were set apart at least for the preliminary work connected with the railway extension to North Travancore, people would have been more satisfied. (*Hear, hear.*) We are very much gratified to see that Government are abandoning extravagant designs in buildings and works of an ornamental nature and are diverting as much expenditure as possible from buildings to communications and other works of public utility. The Chief Engineer's office, the Vanchiyur School and the office of the Director of Public Instruction amply testify to the fact that the authorities were once playing ducks and drakes in ornamental buildings with the taxpayer's money; and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the wholesome change of policy inaugurated by the present Dewan and to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary for steadily keeping up this policy in this budget as well.

It is also a matter for sincere congratulation that the Government are continuing the process of lopping off unnecessary appointments as opportunities offer themselves and that strict economy is effected in the use of stationery articles and in the matter of travelling allowances and contingencies. But it is still contended that there is plenty of scope for further cuts without inconveniencing the people. The recent appointment of a Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner as the head of the Land Revenue Department is a new creation. There are also eight Division Assistants engaged in the several districts in land revenue and incometax work. It is said that the old Dewan Peishkars and the new Land Revenue Commissioner differ on many points and frictions sometimes occur. The Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner of Devicolam may very well disappear and three or four District Magistrates may be appointed in their places with less pay, and the separation of the Magistracy from the Executive made complete. With this reform the complaints of the non-caste Hindus and non-Hindu subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja will also disappear. Government also will have the peace of mind that they have not acted against the traditions of the service in appointing as Peishkar a non-caste Hindu or a non-Hindu.

The amalgamation of the Sanitary and Medical Departments has very often been suggested. In my opinion there is scope for further reduction in the staff of the P. W. D. We are no doubt aware of the cuts already made in this department for which we feel grateful. As I passed through the pages of the P. W. D. budget, I have marked out the retention of an officer worthy of mention in this connection. On page 154 of the budget, we find a provision for a Sub-Engineer on Rs. 300 per mensem to superintend the Guest House. One fails to understand the propriety of employing such a highly qualified and highly paid officer to watch the Guest House when we have ever so many engineers in the town. He deserves a cut and an immediate cut too. (*Laughter.*)

There is a general complaint that we are spending too much on service by way of salaries. It is argued from the official side of this House that for efficient administration the 37 per cent. we are spending on the service should be considered as cheap. But it is contended from the non-official side that it should be made cheaper. I am one who believes in a good service rather than in the so-called efficient service. I would rather prefer a man of average ability provided he is honest and impartial in the discharge of his official duties. (*Hear, hear.*) In that respect, there is a loud complaint against our service, especially the subordinate service, and the officers of the higher service take no account of the honesty or uprightness of the officers concerned and promotions are given mainly on the paper efficiency placed before them. The result is that our service has become corrupt and extremely unpopular. For my part, I would not grudge to pay our officers decently, provided they are honest and impartial. Another complaint we very often hear about our service is that it is sectarian and that equal opportunities and due representation are not given to all classes of His Highness' subjects. This is evident from the large number of interpellations we get at each session of the Council. It seems necessary that Government should carefully look into the matter and shape a more satisfactory and wholesome policy at least so far as new appointments are concerned.

The increase of revenue from the resale of toddy shops has been referred to by the Financial Secretary. I have my own doubts whether it is a matter for joy or regret in these days of temperance and prohibition. The avowed policy of Government has been not to reckon abkari as a source of natural income, but to look upon it as a revenue imposed as a punishment on drink. It is sincerely hoped that the Government and the Excise Commissioner will steadily keep in mind this aspect of the abkari question and would give it some practical shape by the reduction of shops, etc.

I am sorry to find that the Shencottah-Quilon railway continues to give us anxiety and trouble. The whole thing seems to be shrouded in mystery. Nobody has been able to give us a satisfactory account of the real situation. It was once announced that the extension of the railway line to Trivandrum was attended by a surplus income from that source. Next year, we were told that there was gradual fall in spite of the large increase in the rate of fares. It was then explained that the company had invested nearly Rs. 15 lakhs for the purchase of new rolling stock, the whereabouts of which nobody is sure. We are also told that the debentures had to be renewed at the high rate of interest prevailing in the London money market at the time and that the working expenses have also largely increased. One thing is plain from all these, *viz.*, that we are not to get any profit out of our railway, but we should continue to pay to the South Indian Railway Company large sums every year. The sooner we make an end of the affair the better for us. A careful looking into the matter and a more dexterous dealing with the subject seem to be necessary.

Coming to the expenditure side, the Education Department stands pre-eminently high like a *rakshasa* ready to consume any amount of

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money. One conspicuous feature of our budgets for the past several years has been the amazing growth of the expenditure on education as the result of the new educational policy introduced by Dr. Mitchell. The result was the sudden growth of departmental schools like mushrooms in every part of the country at the cost of many a private school. Dr. Mitchell's name is still remembered in the country as the greatest enemy of the private schools. It was he who declared a war against private institutions. Government soon found the mistake and had to relax the rigidity of Dr. Mitchell's Code in favour of private schools and it may be said to the credit of the successors of Dr. Mitchell that they have been more and more sympathetic towards private agencies. Still the old spirit of antagonism has not entirely left the department. Sir, if the department and the Government show a little more sympathy and encouragement towards aided schools there are several private agencies in my constituency ready to relieve the department of its unbearable burden. Sir, I know that the present administration is in favour of surrendering more departmental schools to private agencies which could be worked more economically by them. But the departmental subordinates seem to raise a hue and cry about such attempts, because they rightly or wrongly think that their prestige would thereby suffer. I should think that Government should attempt at some plain speaking in the matter.

I should also like to say a word or two in regard to the Public Works Department. I am glad to find from the budget under discussion that more attention has been bestowed on the wants of northern taluks in the matter of communications. I press one point here for the attention of Government and the Chief Engineer, *viz.*, to avoid the unpardonable delay shown by the department in completing a road or bridge once begun by the department. When once a work is begun it should be pushed through and completed without delay. It is a painful thing for a tax-payer to look at the wastage and leakage that result from the delay. I may also mention in this connection that the spirit once exhibited by the ryots in making their own roads in north Travancore is slowly dying out probably for want of encouragement.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, the Financial Secretary seems to be labouring under a mistake. He seems to think that healthy administration consists in showing a surplus at the end of the year and the ability of a budget-framer mainly consists in preparing a surplus budget. A deficit at the close of the year is certainly to be avoided unless we are compelled to it by circumstances beyond our control. But when the course of events in the year goes to indicate a surplus revenue, I think healthy administration and sound statesmanship consist in foreseeing this result and employing the surplus revenue to the pushing on of public works, especially means of communication that are incomplete. If Mr. George had told us that the Government, foreseeing that there would be a surplus revenue this year, had employed that

surplus revenue for the completion of such public works, I would certainly have congratulated him. I hope that, in future at least, the Government will adopt this safe and salutary policy of utilising the surplus revenue for pushing on public works.

Now, Sir, the Financial Secretary's much boasted "appreciable surplus" of this year is not at all a matter for congratulation. First of all, the windfall referred to in the Financial Secretary's speech was not of the Financial Secretary's making. It was an unexpected stroke of Providence which has saved us from a difficult financial situation.

The next item which has contributed to this surplus revenue is the surrender of funds by the P. W D. Sir, I understand that surrenders from the P. W. D contribute a great share to the surplus revenue of this year. As an instance, I might say that out of Rs. 50,000 allotted for the Alleppey-Shertallai Canal, only Rs. 31,000 is expected to be spent till the close of the year. That means that about Rs. 19,000 has to be surrendered by the department. There are other instances as well. Sir, to starve public works, especially, means of communication, and show a surplus is very unsound administrative policy. It is really undermining the commercial and industrial life of the country. Roads, railways, canals and other means of communication are the blood-vessels of a country's industrial and commercial life. Such surrenders by the P. W. D. of amounts budgeted for improving means of communication should not be allowed except under very extraordinary circumstances.

The control exercised by the Government over the P. W. D. does not seem to be satisfactory. The budget, as it is, does not enable the public to have any idea of the progress of the work done in the course of the year. It generally happens that the officers of the P. W. D. remain idle for a greater portion of the year and when the year would be drawing to a close, they would be seen rushing through the work, or rather rushing through the allotted amount or a greater portion of the same and surrendering the remainder. This kind of rushing through with lightning speed entails a good deal of waste and affords ample opportunity for malpractices. So I would make a humble suggestion for future guidance in the preparation of the budget relating to public works. In the detailed budget estimate under the P. W. D. there is a column showing the probable expenditure during the current year. This does not show whether any work is actually done or whether it is only being rushed through towards the end. This column might with great advantage be divided into a few sub-columns or a few new columns added showing the amount of money actually spent during stated intervals and the last column showing the probable expenditure during the remaining portion of the year. This will enable the public to know the progress of the work and prevent the officers from rushing through the work in the winter season. The budgeted amount for the improvement of the Shertallai town and Tannirmukkam roads is Rs. 9,000 for the year 1098. The "probable expenditure" column for the year shows Rs. 10,000. I could not believe this. So I requested the Chief Engineer to give me a statement of the money actually spent on these works. The reply that I got was that detailed statements were

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not available in this office and that the information has to be obtained from the Executive Engineer. Most probably the work is only being rushed through. Is it not, I beg to submit, a highly regrettable thing that at the close of the year the Chief Engineer is not in a position to show the actual amount of money spent during the year on the public works undertaken and conducted in the State?

Now, Sir, I pass on to the budget laid before the House for the year 1099. The Financial Secretary claims it to be a very wonderful production because he says that it was "not mysteriously hatched in the secret recesses of the Secretariat", but openly hatched in the light of day and in the presence of the representatives of this House. The members of the Finance Committee have not clearly told us what part they played in this wonderful production.

In my opinion, the present budget is not in any way better than its predecessor. The most urgent and pressing needs of the people do not seem to have seriously engaged the attention of the budget-framers. The backward taluks have not received that attention, care and sympathy which they do really deserve. Not even their pressing necessities have been provided for. I have the honor, Sir, to represent in this House, Shertallai, one of the biggest, most populous and richest, but at the same time the most unhappy and the most neglected taluk in the whole State. It comprises a sandy area of about 117 square miles with a population of 1,380 souls per square mile. The total revenue collected under different heads comes to about Rs. 12 lakhs a year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Not quite correct. A portion of it does not seem to have been from Shertallai. I by claim to a part of Shertallai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): But I would remind my friend that a portion has been added to Shertallai when a portion has been taken away.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is all right, but the figure—

PRESIDENT: Order, please. What have you to say, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I thought the figures quoted were not of this year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No, no. It is according to the Census Report placed in our hands this year and also according to the re-arrangement that has been brought about. The total revenue collected under the different heads comes to about Rs. 12 lakhs a year. The cultivation of cocoanut trees and the growing of paddy are the principal occupations of the inhabitants. With all these the inhabitants are most unhappy and miserable. I shall briefly examine the reasons.

The cocoanut trees on which we depend for our daily bread have to be watered during the whole summer season. Owing to the rise in

wages and other economic causes, many cocoanut gardens have not been watered during this year. The watering difficulties will only increase as years advance, and the cultivation of cocoanut trees in the sandy regions of Shertallai will become impossible if some scientific method of watering be not introduced into the taluk. The present budget shows that the Government do not even seem to know this great problem confronting the wealth of the taluk and the welfare of the people.

Again owing to the soaking of husks in stagnant waters in tanks and pools and to other causes, the mosquito trouble, leprosy, elephantiasis and other diseases are on the increase on the sandy coast regions. Seven per cent. of the population are suffering from elephantiasis and about one per cent. of the people are lepers. What have the Government done till now to alleviate these miseries and what do the Government propose to do for the coming year? Sir, I am not unaware of the fact that one supernumerary in the Medical Department has been deputed and sent to Shertallai for associating himself with mosquitoes. (*Laughter.*) He has given chloroform to mosquitoes and is examining them. (*Laughter.*) But no beneficial result has yet been found.

Coming to means of communication, I cannot but say that the present Government does not seem to be sufficiently sympathetic towards Shertallai. The incomplete town roads and the Tannirmukkam roads already referred to are the only roads in the whole taluk. The town-roads are disconnected here and there. The Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road, 3½ miles long, is practically of little use for want of two bridges. About these bridges, on the Tannirmukkam road I have been constantly reminding the Government, and the Government were promising that these bridges would be completed by the end of this year. The year is closing. Not even one of the bridges has been erected. Not only that. There is no provision for the bridges even for the coming year. Sir, is this not really unkind and unsympathetic? Your reply to our Assembly member is really heart-rending and calculated to drive us to despair. Of the many needs of the taluk he placed before the Government only the most urgent and pressing ones. The member's request was :

"The several roads in the taluk should be linked together and made cartable and two bridges should be constructed over the Alleppey-Shertallai canal, one to the west of the Munsiff's court and the other to the west of the taluk cutcherry. Early repair to the present bridges over the Palli *thodu* was urged. The road from Shertallai to Tannirmukkam, which was three miles long, should be completed and two elevated bridges constructed on that road, one over the Kattachira river and the other over the canal running to the east of that river. Another road, 3 miles long from the Shertallai town westward to Arattinkal, should be opened and the same made cartable. A canal 2¼ miles long should be opened connecting Muttattu *kayal* with Pozhichal in the Vayalar west *pakuthi*, both in the interests of agriculture and as a means of communication. The member observed that the canal would not cost much, as there were small *thodus* along the way which might be made to form part of the same, and that it would be of great service to the public resorting to the Shertallai market. He added that, besides being a short-cut from Shertallai to Cochin, that canal would be of great help to the transport of manure to the cocoanut gardens in that part of the taluk. The bund at Pullanchira might be put up and maintained properly so that the ingress of salt water into the adjoining paddy fields might be checked. He also suggested the construction of a sluice at the spot".

The Dewan's reply was:

"We are spending money on the big project of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. As I have stated in my Address, we spent over one lakh of rupees last year on the acquisition of land and another half a lakh on the construction of the canal and connected works. Apparently, you do not want so much money to be spent on that single work. You consider that money should be spent on works which are not so big, but which are, in your opinion, more urgent. In view of what you say, Government will have no objection to reduce the grant for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal and divert a portion of the money, say Rs 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 on other small works. Anyhow, the matter requires closer investigation".

Then the Dewan added:

"Then you want a road from Shertallai to Arattinkal. This is a very costly work. Roads in Shertallai are very costly".

"The fourth work you refer to is the opening of a *thodu* from Muttattu *kayal* to Padinjare *kayal*. That has been estimated to cost about Rs. 50,000 excluding land compensation which will also come to a substantial amount, since the *thodu* has to pass through big cocoanut plantations. All these works are very costly. We will divert money from the Alleppey-Shertallai canal work and spend some amount on these works every year".

Now, Sir, by looking into the budget I see that the amount generally allotted for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal is reduced as a matter of fact by Rs. 25,000. But I was trying, in vain, to see that minor work to which it has been directed. Sir, I know that Rs. 2,000 is allotted for the Arattinkal-Shertallai road; but I beg to submit that the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for a work of that kind is simply like getting a grain of salt dissolved in a tub of water.

To add to these miseries, the inhabitants of Shertallai have to cross the dangerous Vembanad lake for all First Class criminal cases, criminal appeals, incometax appeals, etc., Kottayam being the seat of the headquarters of the division. Till the close of the official career of Sankunni Menon Peishkar of happy memory, Shertallai was the seat of the Division Peishkar. If that state of affairs had continued, the condition of Shertallai might have been much better to-day. But unhappily the Division Cutcherry was transferred to Kottayam and from that time onwards Shertallai began to be neglected. I am not for bringing back the Division Cutcherry from Kottayam to Shertallai. But I would suggest that a convenient portion of the sea-coast be separated from the other divisions and formed into a separate sea-coast division with headquarters at Shertallai. This will be a convenient arrangement from all points of view. But the reform requires some consideration and I only request the Government to look into the matter in the near future.

But, at present, one more Division Assistant must be appointed for the Kottayam Division with his headquarters at Shertallai and with jurisdiction over the taluks of Shertallai and Vaikam. Under the existing arrangement, the Division Peishkar of Kottayam has five taluks *viz.*, Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Minachil and the far-off and separated taluks of Vaikam and Shertallai under his direct control. This is a very inconvenient arrangement and makes the administration of the taluks inefficient. The Quilon Division has but 9 taluks as in the Kottayam

Division. Now there are 3 Division Assistants in the Quilon Division, thereby leaving but 3 taluks under the direct control of the Peishkar. A comparison of the work to be turned out and other conditions prevailing in these two Divisions does not justify this distinction. (*Hear, hear.*) So I request that a Division Assistant be appointed for Shertallai and Vaikam with headquarters at Shertallai.

Sir, all these needs of the Shertallai taluk have been very often brought to the notice of the Government, but it is highly regrettable that in the framing of the budget the Government and the members of the Finance Committee have completely lost sight of the crying needs of this miserable taluk. I thank my friend Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai for his kind reference to the Shertallai taluk but I would like to know whether he has made any suggestion to Government while he was jointly labouring in the Finance Committee on the subject.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): On behalf of Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai and the non-official members of the Finance Committee and also on behalf of the official members, I may say that Shertallai did come in for a good deal of discussion.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I thank you, Sir, for sympathy towards our taluk.

PRESIDENT: I am sure the official members are equally thankful to you, Mr. Velu Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, to my mind there is no good in saying that roads in Shertallai are very costly. The improvement of the means of communication in the Shertallai taluk is a question which the Government cannot avoid. Why not then look the problem boldy in the face and solve it? An allotment of Rs. 2,000 for the Arattinkal road is certainly not looking the problem in the face.

The Alleppey-Shertallai canal is becoming a white elephant to Shertallai. Whenever any prayer is made for improving the means of communication in this taluk, the Government at once sallies forth with the reply that large sums are spent on the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. In the beginning the policy was to open the canal at both ends. So the work was commenced on the Alleppey side as well as on the Shertallai side. Now the work is pursued from the Alleppey side only, and the policy seems to be different. This is practically benefiting the town of Alleppey in the name of Shertallai. I have no objection in Alleppey being benefited; but all that I say is that, when public works are done in Ambalapuzha, it should not be said that they are being done in Shertallai. (*Laughter.*)

About the Interportal Convention and all those things, my friends of this side of the House have spoken very amply. The most important thing for the people of Shertallai is the improvement of their means of communication and I request the Government to be kind enough to spare some attention, at the time of the preparation of the budget to those growing needs of the taluk.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

PRESIDENT: The House will now rise and meet again at quarter past three.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-27 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-25 P. M.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: *(Muvattupuzha:)* രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും നികുതിരൂപേണ ഗവർൺമെന്റു സംഭരിക്കുന്ന ധനത്തെ കഴിയുന്നതും സമഭാവനയോടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെന്റിന്റെ ധർമ്മമാണല്ലൊ. രാജധാനിപട്ടണമായ ഈ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തും അധിക അസൌകര്യങ്ങളുള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും കുറെക്കൂടുതലായിചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നത് ആക്ഷേപയോഗ്യമായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല സമഭാവനയോടെ വേണ്ട ചിലവുകൾ വളരെക്കാലങ്ങളായി ചെയ്യാതിരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു പിന്നോക്കമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നത് എത്രയും ന്യായയുക്തവും ശ്ലാഘാവഹവുമായിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യും. ആവിരൂപേണ ആകാശത്തേക്കു പോകുന്നജലമെല്ലാം ഒരു പ്രത്യേകപ്രദേശത്തേ വർഷരൂപേണ പതിക്കു എന്നു വന്നാൽ മററുള്ള ഭാഗം ഉണങ്ങി വരണ്ടുപോയേക്കുമല്ലോ. അതുപോലെ എല്ലായിടത്തുനിന്നും സംഭരിക്കുന്ന മുതലെടുപ്പിനെ ചിലഭാഗങ്ങളിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി മാത്രം അധികമായി വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ മററു ഭാഗത്തെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനു വാട്ടം തട്ടാതിരിക്കയില്ല. വിസ്തൃതമായ ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിലെ അംഗങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും കുടുംബാവശ്യത്തിനായി ഒരു പോലെ പരിശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിലെ ചില മുറികളിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്നവർക്കു ശുദ്ധവായുവും വെളിച്ചവും ആഹാരവും ഫലഹാരവും വസ്ത്രവും ആഭരണവും മററു വേണ്ട സുഖസൌകര്യങ്ങളും നല്കുകയും മററു ചിലമുറികളിൽ വസിക്കുന്നവർക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം വെളിച്ചവും വായുവും ആഹാരവുംപോലും നല്കാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതു നീതിക്കു യോജിച്ചതായിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, ആ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഐകമത്യവും കുടുംബത്തിനു അഭ്യുന്നതിയും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു ബാധകവുമായിരിക്കും. ഈ നിലയിൽ ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ ൯൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജററ് എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും രാജ്യത്തിൽ അധികഅസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്കു ൯൮-ലെക്കാൾ ഒട്ടും തന്നെ ആശ്വാസകരമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ മാർഗ്ഗം കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇത്രയും മുഖവുരയായി പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ബഡ്ജററിലെ ഓരോ പ്ര

ധാനഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വ്യയപദ്ധതിയേപ്പററി സ്വല്പം വിമശ്നം ചെയ്യാം.

൭. ഗതാഗതസൌകൎയ്യം. തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തോട് അടുത്തു കിടക്കുന്നതും അധികം ഗതാഗതസൌകൎയ്യം ഉള്ളതുമായ ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു റെയിൽവേ തുറക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാരംഭവേലകൾക്കു ബഡ്ജററിൽ സംഖ്യചേൎത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തു നിന്നു അധികം ദൂരമുള്ളതും യാത്രാസൌകൎയ്യം തീരെ കുറവുള്ളതുമായ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു റെയിൽവേ തുറക്കുവാൻ പ്രാരംഭചിലവുകൾക്കായിട്ടെങ്കിലും യാതൊരുസംഖ്യയും ബഡ്ജററിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചു കാണാത്തത് ഏത്രയും നിരാശാജനകമായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ ഉൾഭാഗത്തു താലൂക്കു നിവാസികൾക്കു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തിലെത്തുവാൻ പ്രസിഡെൻസിയുടെ തലസ്ഥാനനഗരമായ മദ്രാസിൽ പോകുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ഗുണം സമയവും ധനവും വ്യയം ചെയ്കയും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടി പലവാഹനങ്ങളിലും മാറിക്കയറിയാത്രചെയ്കയും വേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കോട്ടയത്തിനു വടക്കോട്ടുള്ള മെയിൻസെൻട്രൽ റോഡിന്റെ ചിലഭാഗങ്ങൾ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും പ്രജാസഭവഴിയായി മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാടു മുതലായ ഉൾഭാഗത്തെ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ പ്രതിനിധികൾ ഗവൎൺമെൻറിനെ തുടച്ചയായി അറിയിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ള ചിലറോഡുകൾ ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനും ബഡ്ജററിൽ പണം ചേൎത്തു കാണുന്നതു കുറെ ആശ്വാസകരമെന്നു പറയാം. ഇതോ, ദിവാൻജി അവൎകൾ തന്നെ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പലയിടത്തുപോയി നേരിട്ടു അവിടത്തെ അസൌകൎയ്യങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതിന്റെ ഫലമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ കൂടി ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വന്നു കണ്ട് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പലപ്പോഴും ചെയ്തുവരാറുള്ളതു പോലെ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ട വേലകൾക്കു ചിലവു ചെയ്യാതെ ആണ്ടറുതിയിൽ ഗവൎൺമെൻറിൽ മടക്കി ഏല്പിക്കുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം പിന്തുടരാതിരിപ്പാനും അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ പാഴ ചിലവിനു ഇടവരാതെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വേലകൾ ഉടനെ നടത്തുവാനും വേണ്ട ശട്ടംകെട്ടലുകൾ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. മെയിൻ സെൻട്രൽ റോഡു പലയിടവും വളരെ ചളിമയമായ കുഴികൾ കൊണ്ടു സഞ്ചാരയോഗ്യമല്ലാതെ തീൎന്നിരിക്കയാണ്. ബഡ്ജററിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം ബസ്സുകൾ ഓടിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം മെയിൻ സെൻട്രൽ റോഡു നന്നാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമോയെന്നു സംശയിക്കുന്നു. മോട്ടാർ വാഹനങ്ങൾ ശരി

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

യായി സഞ്ചരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം മെയിൻസെൻട്രൽ റോഡ് അടുത്ത വൎഷമെങ്കിലും ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരുടെ യാത്രാക്ലേശങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒട്ടെല്ലാം കുറവുവരുമായിരുന്നു.

രണ്ടാമതായി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു് കൃഷിമരാമത്തുഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററിയാണ്. രണ്ടിനത്തിലായി രണ്ടരലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേൎത്തു കാണുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ കൃഷിത്തൊഴിലിനുള്ള പ്രാധാന്യം നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതു് ഒട്ടും അധികമാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ പാടില്ല. എന്നാൽ അണകളും, ചാനലുകൾക്കും, കുളങ്ങൾക്കും മററുമായി കൃഷിമരാമത്തു കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കോടി രൂപായോളം ചിലവു ചെയ്തു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ചില താലൂക്കുകളിലും അല്ലാതെ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൃഷിസൌകൎയ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഇതിൽ നിന്നു ഒരു പൈപോലും ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ബഡ്ജററിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നതു പരിതാപകരം തന്നെ.

മൂന്നാമതായി, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവകുപ്പിനെപ്പററി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. നവലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപാ ഇതിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേൎത്തു കാണുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിലും ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറാണ് പിന്നോക്കംനില്ക്കുന്നതെന്നും അവിടേക്കാണ് ഈ വിഷയത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നും ഗവൎൺമെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ഓൎക്കേണ്ടതാണു. ഇംഗ്ലീഷു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ വളരെ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്ന ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാട്, എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളുടെ മദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്ന മൂവാററുപുഴയിൽ ഒരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷു ഹൈസ്കൂൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരണമെന്നു വളരെ നാളായി ഗവൎൺമെൻറിനോടു് അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയായിരുന്നു. മൂവാററുപുഴ താലൂക്കു ഭൂനികുതി വിഷയത്തിൽ രണ്ടാമത്തേതാണ്. ഒന്നരലക്ഷത്തോളം ജനങ്ങളുമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ കെട്ടിടവും മററും ജനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഗവൎൺമെൻറു പറയുന്നതു്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ സമുദ്രതീരത്തോടു് അടുത്തുള്ള വൈക്കം പറവൂർ എന്നീ ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും പല ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളും ഗവൎൺമെൻറു തന്നെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു മൂവാററുപുഴ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ തീൎക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു പകുതിവ്യയമെങ്കിലും ഗവൎൺമെൻറു വഹിച്ചു കെട്ടിടം പൂൎത്തിയാക്കി അടുത്ത വൎഷം തന്നെ സ്കൂൾഫൈനൽക്ലാസ് ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. മൂവാററുപുഴ

താലൂക്കിൽ നിന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞ പന്ത്രണ്ടു വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ പുതുവൽ തടിവില തറവില ഇനങ്ങളിലായി വിശേഷാൽ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള മുതലെടുപ്പു മാത്രം വിനിയോഗിച്ചാൽ അവിടെ ഒരു കോളേജു തന്നെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടത്തുന്നതിനു മതിയാകും. അയൽ താലൂക്കുകളായ കുന്നത്തുനാടു, തൊടുപുഴ എന്നീ താലൂക്കുകളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായി ഗവർൺമെന്റു പലതും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ തന്നെ കൂടുതൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുവാനല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങിനേയുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപ്രചാരത്തിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ ദൃഷ്ടിപതിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്ന പുലയർ പറയർ മുതലായ വർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്ക് അവരുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം നിമിത്തം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവർക്കു പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുത്തും മററും ഗവർമെന്റു സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയമായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നവ ലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം രൂപാ വിവിധവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും പഠിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കായി വീതിക്കുമ്പോൾ പ്രസ്തുതവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ കുറവാകയാൽ അവർക്ക് അവരുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയ്ക്കു് അനുസരണമായി കിട്ടേണ്ടിടത്തോളം സംഖ്യ വരുന്നില്ലെന്നു കാണാം. അതിനാൽ അവർക്കു പാഠപുസ്തകങ്ങൾ സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അർഹതയുള്ളതിൽ കൂടുതലായ പണം ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരുന്നു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കുവാനില്ല. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിലെ ചെറിയ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രായമായവർക്കെന്നപോലെ ഉയരമുള്ള മേശപ്പുറത്തു ഭക്ഷണപദാർത്ഥങ്ങൾ വിളമ്പിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അവർക്കു ഭക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ലെന്നുവരും. മാനസിക ആഹാരമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ധനവിഷയത്തിൽ ശൈശവാവസ്ഥയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന അവർക്കു ഗവർൺമെന്റിന്റെ പ്രത്യേക സഹായം കൂടാതെ അനുഭവിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെയാണ് ഇരിക്കുന്നതു. അവരിൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു വരുന്നവർ തന്നെ കുറവാകയാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽ പണമൊന്നും ചിലവു വരുന്നതല്ലെന്ന് ഉറപ്പായിത്തന്നെ വീണ്ടും പറയാം. തലമുറതലമുറയായി ഈ കർഷകരാജ്യത്തു് [illegible] ഇരിക്കുന്ന വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുടേയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെയും ഉൽക്കർഷത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രയത്നിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഇവരെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദയനീയാവസ്ഥയിൽ നിന്നും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നൽകി ഉയർത്തേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെന്റിന്റെ ധർമ്മമാകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു വിഭാഗം വിദ്യാവിഹീനന്മാരായിരിക്കുന്നതു ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനു പൊതുവിൽ ശ്രേയസ്കരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

നാലാമതായി മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററി പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യത്തേയും ജീവനേയും കാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കുള്ള വ്യയങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ ചില ഡോക്ടർമാരുടെ അതിരററ അർത്ഥാഗ്രഹത്താൽ സാധുക്കൾക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ഗുണം ലഭിക്കാതെ പോകുന്നു. ജലമാർഗ്ഗമായോ കരമാർഗ്ഗമായോ വാഹനങ്ങളിൽ രോഗികളെ ആസ്പത്രികളിൽകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമില്ലാത്ത ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ അവശതയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന രോഗികളെ ആസ്പത്രിയിലേക്കു ചുമന്നുകൊണ്ടുപോകയെന്നുവന്നാൽ അതിനാൽ തന്നെ രോഗം വർദ്ധിച്ചു മരിച്ചുപോകയെന്നു വന്നേക്കും. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ ഡാക്ടരെകൊണ്ടുപോയി രോഗിയെ കാണിക്കുകയേ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളു. ദൂരമനുസരിച്ചു ഇത്ര രൂപാ പടി കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു സാധുജനങ്ങൾ കൃഷിക്കുള്ള കാളയേയോ, കിടക്കുന്നവീടോ, ആഭരണങ്ങളോ പണയംവെച്ചും വിററും പണം കൊടുത്താലും ചിലർ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നു. പടിക്കുപുറമെ ഒരു സംഖ്യകൂടി കൊടുത്തെങ്കിലെ ശരിയായി ചികിത്സിക്കാറുള്ളു. പടി എത്രയാണെന്നു ക്ലിപ്തമായി അറിഞ്ഞാൽ ശേഷം സൌജന്യമായി കൊടുത്തതാണെന്നു രണ്ടുകൂട്ടർക്കും സമ്മതം വരത്തക്കവണ്ണം പടി വിവരം ഒരു ബോർഡിൽ സ്പഷ്ടമായി എഴുതി ആസ്പത്രികളുടെ ഭിത്തിമേൽ തൂക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ചില ആസ്പത്രികളിൽ ധാരാളം രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ചിലവു അനുവദിക്കയും മററു ചിലതിൽ അനുവദിക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു് ഏതു തോതിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല. എൻെറ സ്വദേശമായ കോതമംഗലത്തെ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ ചുററിലുമുള്ള മററ് ആസ്പത്രികളേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ രോഗികൾ വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കണക്കുകൊണ്ടു കാണാം. ഇതിൽ പലരും തോട്ടങ്ങളിലും മററും പോയി രോഗം പിടിച്ചു സ്വദേശത്തേക്കു മടങ്ങുന്ന കൂലിക്കാരും മററുമാണ്. അവർക്കവിടെ ഭവനമോ ബന്ധുക്കളോ ഇല്ല. ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ ആരെയും കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ചിലവു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുമില്ല. ചിലരെല്ലാം വഴിയിൽതന്നെ കിടന്നു മരിക്കാറുമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഇതിനേക്കാളെല്ലാം രോഗികളുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറവായിട്ടുള്ള പലേ ആസ്പത്രികളിലും രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു പടി അനുവദിച്ചു കാണുന്നുമുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ കൂടുതൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ളിട

ത്താണ് രോഗികളെ കിടത്തി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിനു പടി അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത്.

അഞ്ചാമതായി കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ വ്യയങ്ങളെപ്പററി അല്പം പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും അനവധി പണം വ്യയം ചെയ്കയും വളരെക്കാലം പരിശ്രമിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടും സാരതരമായ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നും അതിൽനിന്നും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ ഇനിയും വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വമായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഒരുലക്ഷത്തിഎഴുപത്തൊൻപതിനായിരം രൂപാ ഇതിലേക്കു വ്യയത്തിനായി ബഡ്ജററിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് നാലിലൊന്നായി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായാലും രാജ്യത്തെ കൃഷിക്കു പറയത്തക്ക ദോഷങ്ങളൊന്നും വരാനില്ല. കൂലിച്ചിലവിനത്തിനു തന്നെ പത്തൊൻപതിനായിരത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപായും ഒരു വലിയസംഖ്യ കന്നുകാലികളെ വാങ്ങുന്നതിനും ഒരു ഭീമമായ തുക വളം വകയ്ക്കും ചേർത്തു കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. കൂലിച്ചിലവുസംഖ്യ നന്നെകുറക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരു തരക്കേടും ഇല്ല. ഓരോതരംകൃഷികാം പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ൫൦ ഏക്കറിൽ കൂടുതലായി സ്ഥലം എടുക്കേണ്ടആവശ്യമില്ല. ൫൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു പലതരം കുരുമുളകുകളും കൃഷിചെയ്തു നോക്കാമായിരുന്നിട്ടും കോന്നിയിൽ ൫൦൦ ഏക്കറിലധികം സ്ഥലം കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു് അധികച്ചിലവിനു കാരണമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ഇതിൽനിന്ന് ഒന്നും ആദായം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ അറിവിനായി പരീക്ഷാർത്ഥം നടത്തുന്നതു പത്തേക്കറിൽ കൂടിയിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. അന്യനാട്ടിൽനിന്നു കന്നുകാലികളെ അടുത്തവർഷവും വരുത്തുവാൻ ബഡ്ജററിൽ പണം ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് ദുർവ്യയത്തിനു കാരണമാകും. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ തീററിസാധനങ്ങളും ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിയും വിദേശത്തു നിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന കന്നുകാലികൾക്കു വേണ്ടതുപോലെ പററുന്നതല്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ്ജില്ലകളിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർ അവരുടെ കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നതും വിശേഷാൽ വലിയ ചിലവുകൂടാതെ സംഭരിക്കാവുന്നതുമായ കമ്പം, ചോളം, പഞ്ഞിക്കുരു മുതലായവകൊടുത്ത് ഇവയെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു വലിയ ചിലവു വേണ്ടിവരും. അങ്ങനെ ഇവയെ രക്ഷിച്ചു പോരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കാരനു നഷ്ടത്തിനല്ലാതെ ലാഭത്തിനു വകയില്ല. ഇതു പല കൃഷിക്കാരും അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. മുമ്പു വാങ്ങിട്ടുള്ള കന്നുകാലികളുടെ സ്ഥിതി പരീക്ഷിച്ചറിവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇനി കൂടുതൽ ഈ വകയ്ക്കു ചിലവുചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. വളം വില്പനയേയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടു

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

മെൻറിലെ മററു പ്രവൃത്തികളേയും പററി ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞു ദീർഘിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ടത് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു വീണ്ടും പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ആറാമതായി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പടിയിനത്തിലുള്ള ചിലവുകളെപ്പററിയാണ് പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. . ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ വളരെ പണം ചിലവു വരുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതൊ, ജനങ്ങൾ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതൊ ആയ ഗുണം വേണ്ടപോലെ ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്തെന്നാൽ മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തും സർക്കീട്ടുചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തെ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ നിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു അവിടെയുള്ള പൌരപ്രധാനികളോടു ചോദിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു കീഴിലുള്ളവരെ ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുവാൻ ഒരുക്കമുള്ളവരായിക്കാണുന്നില്ല. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലൎക്കും തങ്ങളുടെ അടുക്കൽ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അക്രമങ്ങളെപ്പററി പൌരന്മാരൊ, പൌരപ്രതിനിധികളൊ പറവാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്നതു തീരെ രസിക്കുന്നില്ല. എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുകളുടേയും ചുമതല വഹിക്കുന്ന ദിവാൻജിഅവർകൾതന്നെ സർക്കീട്ടിൽ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തേയും പൌരന്മാൎക്കും പൌരപ്രതിനിധികൾക്കും കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ പറവാൻ അവസരം കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അത്രപോലും ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ആദിയായവരിൽ പലരും ചെയ്യാത്തതു കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. ഇതുകൊണ്ടാണ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പലരും കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരും ജനോപദ്രവികളുമായി തീൎന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ചിലരെല്ലാം വളരെ നല്ലവരാണെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം മതിയാകുന്നതല്ല. തലയ്ക്കു ശരീരത്തിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും കൈകാലുകളാണല്ലോ മററു വസ്തുക്കളുമായി ഇടപെട്ടുപ്രവൎത്തിക്കുന്നത്. അതുപോലെ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറു 'ഹെഡ്'സിനേക്കാൾ മദ്ധ്യതരത്തിലും താഴ്ന്ന തരത്തിലുമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ് ജനങ്ങളോട് അധികം ഇടപെട്ടു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതു. അവരുടെ പ്രവൎത്തിയുടെ ഗുണദോഷങ്ങളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സുഖദുഃഖങ്ങൾ ഇരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ നിലയിൽ നോക്കുമ്പോൾ മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സർക്കീട്ടിൽ കീഴുള്ളവരെ പററി കൂടുതലായി അന്വേഷിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അക്രമികളെ സ്ഥലം മാററിയും ശിക്ഷിച്ചുംമററും ജനോപദ്രവങ്ങൾക്കു ശമനംവരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടത് എത്രയും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ചില

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ സക്കീട്ടിൽ തങ്ങളിൽ കണ്ടുമുട്ടി ലഹളയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതായി കൂടി കേട്ടുതുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന താലൂക്കിൽ എൻെറ വാസസ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും ഉദ്ദേശം രണ്ടുമയിൽ ദൂരത്തു പബ്ലിക്കുറോട്ടിൽ വച്ച് ഈയിടെ പകൽ പ്രമാദമായ ഒരു ലഹള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തമ്മിൽ നടന്നതായി നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരക്കെ അറിയപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ വളരെ വാസ്തവമുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എൻെറയും ബോധം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർതമ്മിൽ ഈ വിധമാണെങ്കിൽ അവർ സാധുജനങ്ങളോടു ഏതുപ്രകാരമായിരിക്കും വത്തിച്ചുവരുന്നതെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ.

ഒടുവിൽ എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു ബഡ്ജററിൽ ആകെ ചിലവുവകയ്ക്കു വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യയിൽ മുക്കാൽകോടിയോളം രൂപാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും പടിയും ഇനങ്ങൾക്കായി വരുന്നതിനാൽ അതിനെ പററിയാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വസിക്കുന്ന നാനാവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപെട്ട ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും നികുതിയായി ഈടാക്കുന്ന പണത്തിൽനിന്നാണല്ലോ ഇപ്രകാരം മുക്കാൽകോടിയോളം രൂപാ ചിലവുവരുന്നത്. ഇതിൽ ൯൦ ശതമാനവും തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ഉള്ളവക്കും ഏതാനും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവക്കും മാത്രമാണെന്നു സ്പഷ്ടമാണ്. രാഷ്ട്രീയമന്ദിരത്തിൻെറ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളാകുന്ന മുറികളിൽ മുൻകൂട്ടി സ്ഥലം പിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർ തങ്ങളുടെ സ്വജാതിയരേയും സ്വദേശീയരേയും മാത്രമാണ് പ്രായേണ സ്വാഗതം പറഞ്ഞു ഉള്ളിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധരായി കാണുന്നതു്. മററുള്ളവരെ വാതില്ക്കൽ വച്ചുതന്നെ പുറം തള്ളിക്കളയുന്നു. ഓരോ ദേശത്തിനും ഓരോ വർഗ്ഗത്തിനും കണക്കനുസരിച്ചു തൂക്കിയോ അളന്നോ സാധനങ്ങൾ പങ്കിടുന്നപോലെ പങ്കിടുവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല ഗവർൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗങ്ങളെന്ന് എനിക്കു നല്ല ബോധമുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ വലുതായ അന്തരം, അതായതു ആറെന്നും അറുപതെന്നും ഉള്ള വിധമല്ല, അതിലും കൂടുതലായി ആറെന്നും നൂറെന്നും പ്രത്യക്ഷമായി കാണുന്ന വ്യത്യാസത്തെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനികൂടാത്തവിധം പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ഉടനെ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ധമ്മമാണെന്നു നീതിയുടേയും സമാധാനത്തിൻെറയും നാമത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കുറവായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആ സ്ഥിതി വളരെ ഭേദപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. എങ്കിലും ഗവർൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലു

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

ള്ളവൎക്കും ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിലുള്ളവൎക്കും അൎഹതയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വിധം പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും പ്രധാന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പെരുമാറിവരുന്നതു നിറുത്തേണ്ടതാണു്. ഉദാഹരണമായി ഞാൻ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതും ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ സമുദായത്തിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്നതും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള ഏതു സമുദായത്തോടും ജനസംഖ്യയിൽ കിടപിടിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം നാലു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ കത്തോലിക്കാ സമുദായത്തെത്തന്നെ നോക്കാം. പല വിഷയങ്ങളിലും ബിരുദ നേടിയിട്ടുള്ളവരായ മുന്നൂറിൽപരം ഉൽകൃഷ്ട പരീക്ഷാവിജയികൾ ഇതിൽ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഗവർൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻേറയും പടിവാതില്ക്കൽ എത്തിനോക്കുവാൻപോലും ഇവരെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഈ സമുദായത്തിൽപെട്ട രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും അവരും ഇവരിലാരേയുംതന്നെ തങ്ങൾ ചുമതലവഹിക്കുന്ന ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തീരെ സന്നദ്ധന്മാരായി കാണപ്പെടുന്നില്ല. ഇതിൻെറ കാരണം എന്താണെന്നു് അവൎക്കും ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും മാത്രമെ അറിവാൻ പാടുള്ളു.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Last year, the Financial Secretary displayed some skill in evolving a balanced budget which would have been a deficit one, had it not been for a cut of Rs. 5 lakhs made in the estimates of the Department of Public Works. This year his task appears to have been easier and he comes out with a surplus of Rs. 2 lakhs after providing for unusual and special items of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 8 lakhs. He claims a cordial reception for his budget, especially as it is, according to him, the production of the joint labours of Government and the representatives of this House in the Finance Committee. I do not know whether the reception we have accorded to this joint production would come up to the expectations of the Financial Secretary.

I believe that the creation of the Standing Finance Committee was more or less due to the trend of discussions in this House on the last year's budget and that Government have appointed that committee with a view to enable the representatives of this House to go more minutely than is possible in this Council into each item of expenditure and offer the non-official view thereon. Neither from the speech of Mr. George nor from the speeches of our representatives on the committee are we permitted to gather any idea as to what exactly has taken place at the meetings of the committee. We do not know whether they have approved all or any of the 58 new schemes that the budget admittedly contains. We are also ignorant whether Government have altered or dropped any one of the schemes at the instance of our representatives. In the absence of any information on the point and in view of the fact that Mr. G. Paramésvaran Pillai and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai—two of the

three members of the Finance Committee—differed in their opinion as to the contribution they have made in the preparation of the budget, I confess I do not therefore find my way to admit the claim put forward by Mr. George. Even assuming for the sake of argument that the Finance Committee had a real hand in the shaping of the budget, their labours could have related only to the expenditure side and not to the probable forecast of revenue for the year 1099.

While introducing the last year's budget, Mr. George reviewed the finances of the State for a period of ten years and then invited us to believe that the fears often expressed that we are drifting consciously or unconsciously into bankruptcy was groundless and that our financial outlook was not gloomy. Members on this side of the House could not share in this robust optimism of the Financial Secretary and his budget came in for a good deal of adverse criticism. Had it not been for the starving of the department of Public Works to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs and for the fact that the Gods on the heights of the Himalayas had mercy on us—which mercy descended on us in the shape of the certification of the salt duty by the Viceroy—I do not know what would have been the nature of the optimism of the Financial Secretary who has to meet the unusual and special expenditure in 1099 to the tune of Rs. 8 lakhs. Salt duty gives us not less than Rs. 12 lakhs. If we have to allow for the normal growth in expenditure in our spending departments and to meet the special expenses due to *Murajapam* and the Delhi Palace, we would be on the wrong side of the budget at the end of 1099 to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs, had it not been for the windfall of the salt duty. In spite of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, Mr. George claims that the lapse of a year has confirmed him in his former view that our financial outlook is not gloomy. I can only wish that we may have another windfall next year, not in the shape of this iniquitous salt duty which presses so heavily even on the meanest subject of His Highness the Maha Raja, but in some other and fairer shape so that Mr. George may be able to keep to his optimism and the State exchequer may have sufficient money to meet the growing expenditure of a progressive administration.

The forecast of revenue made by Mr. George last year did not prove true. It would be better to forecast more modestly. The expected revenue from the sale of Government lands was not forthcoming. The forest revenue has declined and it is not safe to assume that the forest revenue is not going to fall still further in 1099.

During the budget debate last year, pointed attention was drawn to several methods of augmenting the revenues of the State. A revision of the Interportal Trade Convention, the saving of the whole of the tea duty for our State, a duty on rubber, and a more economic management of the State railways ought to be taken up by the Government at the earliest opportunity possible. In future years, the growing requirements of our administration can be met only by tapping the above resources. We have almost reached the bedrock of taxation and unless Government have collected reliable data as to our national income and the balance of trade and thus established our capacity to bear more burdens the idea

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

of resorting to fresh taxation has to be abandoned for a considerable time to come. Even the Gods will not always be merciful towards us; for Gods help only those who help themselves.

Now coming to the expenditure side of the budget, one has to note with satisfaction the incoporation in the budget of not less than 58 new schemes or items of expenditure. It is not easy to say whether they are all schemes making for the more efficient administration of the departments or for the development of the resources of the country. Anyhow, it involves an expenditure of Rs. 3½ lakhs. To that extent the Government and the Financial Secretary have to be congratulated. No doubt the robust optimism of the Financial Secretary enabled him to forge ahead with the initiation of new schemes probably expecting another windfall next year. I would however reserve my comment upon the various schemes until they come up for discussion during the demands for grants.

But I cannot help referring here to one or two items on the expenditure side of the budget. I would first deal with the provision of Rs. 50,000 for school fee concessions allowed to the depressed and backward communities in the State. I should be failing in my duty if I do not avail myself of this opportunity for expressing the gratitude of the communities concerned towards Government for this concession. I expected that Government would be congratulated by all fair-minded and tolerant citizens of this State for this wise and statesmanlike policy. It has caused me and men of my way of thinking great surprise that Government should have been found fault with for this concession from quarters from where it was least expected. Some sections of the Press also were loud in their cries against the concession. Yesterday two prominent members of this House expressed in no unmistakable terms their disapproval of the extension of this concession, more especially to an unfortunate class of people called the Ezhavas. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar said that concessions cannot be granted on principles of caste and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai referred to the inconsistency of people asking for equality of treatment and concessions at the same time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedunangad*): Louder, please.

PRESIDENT: Will you kindly speak louder.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I did not hear the last sentence. (*Laughter.*)

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I cannot but categorically deny all these statements and say in reply that here is a case of an application of a principle of law without studying the facts of the case.

The concession rates in school fees were being allowed to students of various castes and sects in Travancore for some time now. It is not a new institution of 1098. The Mahomedan community, not to speak of the Pulaya and the Paraya communities, was enjoying this privilege for many years. They have been shown several other considerations,

special scholarships, etc. The Mahomedans have been given even a special High School in Alleppey at great expense to Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know from the speaker whether he is in favour of the extension of the fee concessions to the *Nair* and the *Brahmin* communities ?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : I shall have answered that question when I finish my speech.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) : Is it not a misapprehension on the part of Mr. Kumaran to say that I was not in favour of the concession being granted to the depressed and backward classes ? I only said that a similar help should not be withheld from the pupils belonging to other communities merely because it was their misfortune to be born in what are considered to be the higher castes. I thoroughly appreciate the desirability of giving the concession to the backward classes. I only objected to an omission.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : Mahomedans are a rich community.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : Mr. Kumaran spoke something about Mahomedans. I did not hear that. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT : Please speak a little louder.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) : Mahomedans are a rich community and Alleppey is their richest centre and yet it has never occurred to Mr. Krishna Aiyangar that this special treatment to Mahomedans was unjust or unwarranted. In all schools and colleges, Arts as well as Law colleges, Mahomedan students have concession. Yet it has apparently escaped the notice of Mr. Krishna Aiyangar and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. I do not think they can justify Government spending such large sums of money for Mahomedans while they would not allow even small mercies to the Ezhava students. I take it that it is not because the fact that several communities in the State are enjoying concession was not unknown to them but because hitherto the Ezhavas did not share in the privilage. I am entitled to draw this inference from their acquiescence in the past of the concession rates to others and from their raising this question in this debate and making pointed reference only to Ezhavas in their speeches. I should not be understood as speaking against the concessions and special treatment accorded to Mahomedans. I have referred to them simply to point out the genesis of this cry against concession rates. Even now Ezhava students are not given concession in the Arts College where they require it most, while Mahomedans and other communities enjoy the same privilege.

Now, let us view the question from another standpoint. Have my friends stopped to consider what induced the Government to extend this privilege to depressed and backward communities? To put it briefly, it was to make amends for the past sins of commission and omission perpetrated by Government for generations, nay centuries together. When English education was free, when Government invited students holding out great inducements to them to join

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

the Maha Raja's English School where they were promised free education and offered employment in Sirkar service and up to the time when education was 300 or 400 times less costly than it is now, students of these backward and depressed classes were rigorously excluded from all schools and until recently, from State service, which was the sole incentive for resorting to that kind of education. Private individuals can afford to have short memories. But Government are what the lawyers call corporations sole. They continue to exist and must be responsible for their past conduct and treatment of the various classes of people. These communities had no rights but only burdens until recently. They were merely the helots of the State. The Government apparently existed for a few favoured communities. Education and Government service were their close preserves. Encouraged by a paternal Government and enjoying several privileges these favoured classes forged ahead in all directions. When the cost of education became prohibitive, Government began to throw open schools to these unfavoured classes. When the public service and learned professions became crowded and when qualified hands became easily available, admission to the public service was also given to them. It is idle to contend that all classes of people in the State are on an equal footing for the race of life, when Government themselves until recently denied such a claim. The unprivileged classes are seriously handicapped in their race of life, as the favoured communities have gone miles ahead of them. The depressed and backward communities are now struggling to stand upon their legs, not to speak of their incapacity to compete with the privileged classes in the struggle for existence. Owing to the poverty of these classes and the prohibitive cost of English education, Government thought it only just and fair that their backwardness in English and Malayalam education, as may be seen from the number of students attending schools, had to be removed by holding out the encouragement of concession rates in school fees until their literacy increased. I am therefore constrained to say that it does not fairly lie in the mouths of the members of the favoured communities to cry against a small concession granted with a view to remove the evils that were mainly the result of a narrow policy followed by former Governments. It is neither a question of caste nor religion nor is it a favour granted to the community. These communities do not ask for favours. They are entitled to be compensated and indemnified for the ill-treatment, for the loss in all directions they had incurred for generations together. I am sure Government deserve congratulations rather than condemnation for this small and belated act of justice and fair play.

Another point I would place before this House is the question of our contribution to the Cochin Harbour Scheme. As has been already observed by several previous speakers, this House has been left in the dark as to the extent or nature of our commitments in that scheme or the advantages that we are likely to derive therefrom. We have this year contributed Rs. 3 lakhs as our share of the expenses. It is necessary here to give a note of warning. The

Travancore Government have invariably burnt their fingers when they had to enter into an agreement with the British Government or with the South Indian Railway company or the Kannan Devan Planters' Company or even the agreement with the much talked-of company for the manufacture of matches. I doubt very much whether, at any time in modern history, Travancore has come out well in any of the agreements they entered into with parties outside the State. It is a most unfortunate circumstance and I wish that this Government would not add its own share to this calamity. Government will do well therefore to be extremely careful in their participation in the Cochin Harbour Scheme.

While on this subject, I would draw the attention of Government to an answer given yesterday to an interpellation in this House. The answer relates to the deflection of export trade from Cochin to Alleppey Port. In this year, it has amounted to a large figure. Now Government have not ascertained why this deflection has taken place. I am in a position to inform Government that it was due to the increase in the Port dues at Cochin which have been recently raised considerably. At Alleppey, in spite of the many inconveniences to shippers the low rates in Port dues have induced the chief exporting firms in Cochin to open branches at Alleppey and ship their cargoes from there. I am given to understand that the authorities of the Cochin Harbour intend approaching our Government, if they have not already approached, with a request to raise the Alleppey Port dues to the level at Cochin. If Government agree to do so, that would be the admission of the thin end of the wedge and would prove a death-blow to the Alleppey Port. That is a calamity which the people of this State cannot view with equanimity.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Paru*): Sir, in accordance with the usual practice generally obtaining in all democratic legislatures, we have also been allowed to make a general survey of the administration on occasions when budget estimates are presented to this House. Unfortunately, many of us have not been able to fully avail ourselves of the opportunity because the copies of the *Preliminary Budget* were not received by many of us except on the day previous to the one on which it was presented or even on that day itself. I request that at least, on future occasions, the Government will see that copies of it are sent to us a week before it is presented to the House so that we may study them properly and make whatever references that are necessary in passing our criticisms on the budget before this House.

A good deal of criticism passed on the Financial Secretary would certainly not have been made had it not been for the literary flourishes with which he thought fit to embellish his financial statement. Those flourishes contain words and phrases provocative in their nature and hence the Financial Secretary has to thank only himself for a good portion of the hostile criticism he has drawn upon himself from all quarters of this House.

[Mr. A. Govinda Menon.]

Critically viewed, the budget before us shows no improvements on its predecessor. It does not indicate any definite financial policy on the part of its framers. The statement of the Financial Secretary which should have furnished us with information on this is wisely silent on the point. I say wisely, for it is patent to those who are used to handling budgets that the one before us cannot by any possibility have been based on a well-thought-out financial policy on the part of Government. I am however, loath to cast any serious blame on the present head of our administration or his financial adviser, for this state of things. They have but followed in the wake of their predecessors and their difficulties are to an appreciable extent due to commitments made by previous administrators. If they deserve any blame it is only for not improving the state of things in which they found the finances of this State. It is clear even to the layman that the policy of drift in finance has run its natural course and that, unless we adopt without delay a well-defined and sound financial policy, the administration will soon find itself landed in difficulties, from which it would not be easy for any one to rescue it.

The growing demands of a progressive administration require a constantly increasing share of our revenues for the needs of the educational and development branches of our administration and it is therefore the plain duty of our Government to seek out and utilise every untapped source of income of the State. My friends Messrs. Madhava Variar and Dominic Tomman have clearly indicated what the chief of those sources are and I may assure you that every one of us in this House would stand unwaveringly by Government in overcoming any obstacles that may stand in their way in carrying out the proposals of my friends.

An increase in our resources would not, however, better our present conditions to any appreciable extent, unless there is some one who is specially deputed to keep strict watch over the administration of our finances. To this end, I would again urge the absolute necessity of having a Financial Secretary who has no concern with the Audit and Accounts Department. The Dewan with his multifarious duties as the Head of the Administration can never be expected to bestow sufficient attention on our finances. In fact, it is not advisable in the present state of affairs to combine the functions of the Account Officer and that of the Financial Secretary in one and the same person. To secure an efficient administration of our finances, it is necessary that the heads of the administration who are appointed only for short and limited periods should receive effective advice and check at the hands of those presiding over the departments of finance and audit. If such advice and check really existed, the spectacle of occasionally creating appointments for persons and of projecting ill-advised schemes involving either any large capital outlay or an increased recurring expenditure would have been a rare phenomenon in our administration. A well-constituted but small

Finance Committee, presided over by the Dewan and appointed for a term of at least three years, and composed of an equal number of officials and of non-officials elected by the Council and possessing power to examine all financial questions and to pass the annual budget estimates before they are presented to this House, is also a *desideratum* for the efficient administration of our finances. Unless these suggestions are carried out, 'the policy of drift' is not likely to disappear from the sphere of our finances and to give place to a steady, sound, financial policy which would be able to provide for the growing needs of a progressive country like ours. I hope and trust this matter will, therefore, meet with careful and favourable consideration at the hands of this House.

Among the various proposals that have been brought forward by my friends in the House to make the administration of the finances more efficient there are very many which require careful consideration at the hands of this House as also the Government. But I do not wish to touch upon all of them except one which I think is rather curious. My friend Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar said that the Secretaries in the Secretariat who ought to keep watch over the several departments should be specialists. I think that this is the first time in the history of any democratic legislature that such a suggestion has been made. In fact, no legislature allows, if possible, any specialist in any department to have its ultimate control in the Government. I think it is within the recent memory of almost all of us that there was a tussle between the Commander-in-Chief Lord Kitchener and the Viceroy Lord Curzon. Of course the former being stronger, the office of the Military Supply Member was abolished and Lord Curzon had to resign and go away. There is another objection to the suggestion. Take the case of the Medical Department. Suppose there is a Deputy Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon in the Secretariat in charge of the Medical department. Ordinarily, these people will not dare to pass any remark against the Darbar Physician if they want to get promotions in the department. The idea involves a kind of—if it is not unparliamentary to use the word—absurdity. It is not possible to have specialists trained in every branch and to put them in to look after the administration of that branch. I do not want to say anything further about the proposal, but only referred to it because this is the first time I have heard such a proposal emanating from a democratic legislature.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Sir, இந்த வருஷத்திலுள்ள வரவுசெலவு கணக்கையும், அடுத்த வருஷத்து வரவு செலவு கணக்கையும் பரிசோதித்துப் பார்த்ததில், இந்த வருஷத்து வரவுசெலவு கணக்கை அதிக தர்க்கத்திற்கு இடமில்லாமல் Financial Committee கூடியிருந்து ஆராய்ந்துபார்த்துச் செய்திருக்கிறதாக Financial Secretary அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறது மிகவும் சம்மதிக்கத்தக்கதே. ஆனால் அடுத்த வருஷத்தில் கூடுதல் முதல் வரவுக்கு இடமிருக்கிறதாகவும், அது குடிகளின் மேல் கூடுதல் வரியைச் சுமத்தாமல் வருகிறது என்றும் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறார். ப்ரிடிஷில் உப்பு நிகுதியைக் கூட்டினபிறகு இவ்விடத்திலும் கூட்டினதினால் உப்பு நிகுதியில் ரூ. 4¾ லக்ஷம் வருமானம் வருகிறதென்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்.

[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

அந்தக் கூடுதலையும் இந்தக் குடிகள் தாம் கொடுக்கவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. இவர்கள் மேல்தான் கூடுதல்வரி ஏற்பட்டும் இருக்கிறது.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The speech is not sufficiently audible.

PRESIDENT: What is the matter, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I cannot hear what he reads.

PRESIDENT: உரக்க வாசிக்கவேண்டும்.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): தவிரவும் இந்த நிகுதி எப்போது ப்ரிடிஷில் நிறுத்தப்படுகிறதோ அப்போதே இவ்விடத்திலும் நிறுத்தப்படும். எல்லா ராஜ்யங்களிலும் வரவுக்கு மிஞ்சி செலவு சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் அது இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது ரொம்பவும் சிலாகிக்கப்படவேண்டியதுதான். இந்தக் கூடுதல் வரவு கிடைக்கிறது இந்த ஜனங்களிடத்திலிருந்தல்லாமல் வேறில்லை. இந்த முதல்கொண்டு அவர்களுக்கு விசேஷமாக ஒரு நன்மையும் கிடைத்ததாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஜனங்களுக்குக் கூடுதல் நன்மையைச் செய்யவேண்டுமானால், கல்வி விஷயமாகவும், ஔஷத ஸ்தாபனங்கள் விஷயமாகவும், மராமத்து விஷயமாகவும் தான் கிடைக்கவேண்டும். கல்வி விஷயத்தைப் பார்த்தால், தாழ்ந்த ஜாதியார் என்றும், கல்வியில் பின்னடைந்தவர் என்றும், இரண்டு வகுப்பாய் எடுத்து, அவைகளில் சில ஸமுதாயத்தாரை மட்டும் குறிப்பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்கு முழுப் பீஸும், பாதிப் பீஸும், குறைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இதனாலேயே கல்வி விஷயத்தில் வரவு குறையக் கூடும். இந்த வகுப்பாருக்குப் பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுத்ததைப்பற்றி நான் பொறாமை கொள்ளவில்லை. எந்தச் சமுதாயத்தாரிலும் படிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியில்லாத ஆட்களுக்கே பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டியது. ஒரு தாழ்ந்த வகுப்பினன் தன் குழந்தைகளையும் தவிர வேறு குழந்தைகளையும் படிப்பிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவனாயிருந்தாலும், அவன் தாழ்ந்த வகுப்பினன் ஆனதினால் அவனுக்குப் பீஸ் குறைத்துக் கொடுக்கிறது நியாயமில்லையே. அதைப்போலவே நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுப்பதிலும் ஜாதிவித்தியாஸம் பாராட்டலாகாது. எந்தச் சமுதாயத்திலும் குடியிருக்கிறதற்கும், கிருஷி செய்கிறதற்கும் நிலம் வாங்கச் சக்தியில்லாதவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுக்கவும், பிறகு அவர்களுக்குச் சக்தியுண்டாகும் காலத்தில் அதற்குள்ள விலையை வாங்கவும் ஏற்பாடு செய்தால் கவர்ண்மெண்டுக்கு லாண்ட் ரெவினியூவில் முதல் கூடிவரும். ஒருவருடைய தகுதியைப் பாராமல் சமுதாயத்தை மாத்திரம் பார்த்து நிலத்தைப் பதித்துக் கொடுக்கிறதாயிருந்தால், கவர்ண்மெண்டுக்கு நாளுக்கு நாள் நஷ்டமே ஏற்படும்.

அடுத்த வருஷத்தில் வரவு கூடுதலாக வருகிறதினால் செலவையும் அதிகமாக்கினால் நல்லது என்று நினைத்துக் கூடுதல் செலவு ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. புதியவைகளாகச் சில உத்தியோகங்கள் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன, அவைகளாவன:— Temporary officers, Supernu-

merary hands, Assistant Translator—ஆகியவையே, Leave allowances என்று சில செலவுகளும் காணப்படுகின்றன. தமிழ்மொழி பெயர்ப்புக்கு ஒரு ஸ்திர உத்தியோகஸ்தரை நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று பலமுறை முறையிட்டும், அவரை நியமித்ததாகக் காணவில்லை. அதற்கு Piece work என்று ஒரு Item வைத்து Rs. 3,100 அநுவதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஒரு ஸ்திர உத்யோகஸ்தரை நியமித்தால் இவ்வளவு செலவு செய்யவேண்டாம். அதனால், Tamil Translator வேலைக்கு ஒரு பிரத்தியேக உத்தியோகஸ்தரை நியமிக்கவேண்டும். குறைந்த சம்பளத்தில் எத்தனையோ ஆட்கள் தமிழில் பாண்டித்தியமுள்ளவர்கள் கிடைப்பார்கள். கவெர்ன்மென்டுக்குச் செலவும் குறையும்.

எஞ்சினீர் வகுப்பிலும் வேலைகள் செய்கிறதில் கிருஷிக்காரருக்கு ஆவசியமுள்ள வேலைகளை அவர்களுக்கே காண்ட்ராக்ட் கொடுக்கிறதாயிருந்தால் அதிகச் செலவு ஏற்படாமலும், வேலை உறுதியாகவும் இருக்கக்கூடும். அடிக்கடி மாற்றிச் செய்யவேண்டியிராது.

சில ஸ்தலங்களில் ஆசுபத்திரிகள் வாடகைக் கட்டிடங்களில் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறதாகவும், கூடுதல் வாடகை கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறதாகவும் விளங்குகிறது. இப்படி வாடகை கொடுக்கிறதைப் பார்க்கிலும், கவெர்ன்மென்டிலிருந்து கட்டிடம் கட்டிக்கொடுத்தால் வருஷந்தோறும் இந்த மாதிரி செலவுக்கிடமில்லை.

MR. P. PARAMESVARAN (*Nominated*): അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് കഴിഞ്ഞ തിങ്കളാഴ്ച സമൎപ്പിച്ച സമയം ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ൧൦൯൭-ാമാണ്ടു ചിലവുകഴിച്ചു മുക്കാൽ ലക്ഷം രൂപാമാത്രമെ മിച്ചം വരികയുള്ളു എന്നു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നിൎണ്ണയിച്ചിരിക്കെ, ചിലവു കഴിവുള്ളെടത്തോളം കുറയ്ക്കുകയും വരവിനങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി ആരാഞ്ഞറിഞ്ഞു പിരിവുവരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ചിലവു മിച്ചം കൂടുതലായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു. ഭൂനികുതി എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ പിരിവു, ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽനിന്നും രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ കുറവാണെന്നു വരികിലും അടുത്ത ആണ്ടിൽ ഇതിലും അധികം വരവുണ്ടാകാനുള്ള മാറ്റങ്ങൾ നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതും സന്തോഷാവഹംതന്നെ. പുതുവൽപതിവു ഇനത്തിൽ ഉള്ള വരവ് ഈ ആണ്ടിൽ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞു കാണുന്നു. ഇതിനെപ്പററി ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന സമാധാനത്തിൽനിന്നു ഒരു സംഗതി വെളിവാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. വളരെ വിസ്താരമായ പുതുവൽ തറകളെ ചുരുക്കം ഏതാനും ആളുകളുടെ മാത്രം പേരിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന നയത്തെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി ചെറിയ ബ്ലോക്കുകളായി തിരിച്ചു, അനേകം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നതു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗുണാവഹമാകുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു സംഗതി കൂടി എനിക്കു പറവാനുണ്ടു്. പുതുതായി ഏതാനും വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ

[Mr. P. Paramesvaran.]

ആരംഭിക്കുവാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്നവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ കടമയാണല്ലോ. ഈ കടമയെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിൽ വ്യവസായ പ്രവൎത്തകന്മാരുടെ യോഗ്യതകളെ തീരെ ആലോചിക്കാതെ വ്യവസായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം എന്ന പേരുംപറഞ്ഞു അനവധി ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ചിലരുടെ പേരിൽ ഓരോ കാലത്തു് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു. ആ വ്യവസ്ഥയെ അവർ അവഗണിച്ചു പുതുവൽ കരസ്ഥമാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തെമാത്രം മുൻനിറുത്തി പ്രവൎത്തിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ചില ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ എടുത്തു കാണിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഒരു വ്യവസായത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ഈവിധം സഹായം ചെയ്തിരുന്നാൽ ആ വ്യവസായം നിന്നുപോകുന്ന കാലത്തിൽ ഈ ഭൂമികൾ വീണ്ടും സർക്കാരിലേക്കു് ചേരേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള നിബന്ധന മേലാൽ എങ്കിലും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും.

മുതലെടുപ്പിനങ്ങളിൽ ആകട്ടെ അനേകം പ്രധാന ഇനങ്ങളിലും ഈ ആണ്ടത്തെ പിരിവു ബഡ്ജറ്റുതുകയിൽനിന്നു കൂടുതൽ ആയിരിക്കെ റെയിൽവെ എന്ന ഇനത്തിൽ മാത്രം രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ പിരിവു കുറവുകാണുകയും അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തേയ്ക്കു ഒരു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ നഷ്ടം വരുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതിനെ വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതു ദുൎഗ്രഹമായി തീരുമെന്നുള്ള ഭയം ജനിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ ആലുവാ വരെ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കണമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ മുറവിളികൂട്ടി തുടങ്ങീട്ടു കാലം വളരെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നു. റെയിൽകൂലി രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽനിന്നു ഇരട്ടി ആക്കീട്ടും ചെങ്കോട്ടമുതൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം വരെയുള്ള പാതയിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ആദായം ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലേയ്ക്കു നഷ്ടമായി പരിണമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ൯൭-ലും ൯൮-ലും റെയിൽവേയിൽനിന്നു നഷ്ടമേ വരികയുള്ളു എന്നു വരികിലും വരുംകാലങ്ങളിൽ റെയിൽവെ നിമിത്തമുള്ള ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയുണ്ടെന്നു ഫിനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നതു ആശ്വാസജനകംതന്നെ. റെയിൽവെയിലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നടത്തിപ്പു ആശാജനകം അല്ലെങ്കിലും ആലുവാമുതൽ നാഗർകോവിൽവരെ എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ റെയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാകയാൽ അതു സാധിപ്പിക്കാൻ വേണ്ട പ്രവൃത്തി ഗവർൺമെണ്ടു ചെയ്യുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

പ്രധാന ചിലവു ഇനങ്ങളായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, പൊതുമരാമത്തു ഈ വകകൾക്കു ഈ ആണ്ടത്തേക്കാൾ രണ്ടുലക്ഷവും ഒരു ലക്ഷവും രൂപാ വീതവും കൂടുതൽ അടുത്താണ്ടു ചിലവാക്കുവാൻ വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു സന്തോഷാവഹം തന്നെ. എന്നാൽ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസചിലവിനെ പററി ഒരു പ്രത്യേകസംഗതി എൻെറ സമുദായത്തിലേയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി എനിക്കു അറിയിക്കുവാനുണ്ടു.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന സമുദായങ്ങൾ പലതുണ്ടെങ്കിലും എൻെറ സമുദായത്തിൻെറ നില പ്രത്യേകസ്ഥിതിയിലുള്ളതാണ്. പതിനഞ്ചുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു വരെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള യാതൊരു ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും മലയാംപള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും ആയുർവേദകാളേജ, സംസ്കൃതകാളേജ് ഇവ ഒന്നിലും ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ചേർത്തിരുന്നില്ല. വിശാലഹൃദയന്മാരായ ദിവാൻജിമാർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഈ ദയനീയാവസ്ഥയിൽ കൃപ തോന്നി മനുഷ്യജാതിക്കു അവകാശമുള്ള സകലവിധ അവകാശങ്ങൾക്കും അധികാരങ്ങൾക്കും ഈഴവർ സർവ്വഥാ അർഹന്മാരാണെന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചു. ഇവിടെ ഇദംപ്രഥമമായി ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ആരംഭിച്ച കാലത്തു മററനേകം വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു കൊടുത്തു പഠിപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. അതിൽപ്പിന്നെ വളരെക്കാലം യാതൊരു ഫീസും ഇല്ലാതേയും പിന്നീടു എത്രയൊ ലഘുവായ ഫീസു പിരിച്ചും അവർക്കു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നൽകിവന്നിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ അനേകം സംവത്സരകാലം ഗവർൺമെൻറു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലേയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തുവന്നിരുന്ന ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളേയും സഹായങ്ങളേയും അനുഭവിച്ചു മററനേകം സമുദായക്കാർ ഉന്നതിയെ പ്രാപിച്ചതിൽപിന്നെ മാത്രം ആകുന്നു എൻെറ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ളവർക്കു പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളുടെ വാതലുകൾ തുറന്നു കൊടുത്തതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു എൻെറ സമുദായം മേല്പറഞ്ഞ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരോടൊപ്പം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസാഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ പ്രാപിക്കുന്നതുവരെ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നു ഉദാരസഹായങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്തുതരേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള വാസ്തവസ്ഥിതിയെ കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുകൊല്ലങ്ങളായി കൂടക്കൂടെ അനേകം അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഞാൻ അറിയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. മഹാമനസ്കരായ സ്വാമി അവർകൾ ആകട്ടെ എൻെറ നിവേദനത്തിലെ ന്യായാന്യായങ്ങളെ ആരാഞ്ഞറിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് സ്കൂളുകളിൽ ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു പകുതിഫീസു മതി എന്നുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യം നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നിൽക്കുന്ന മററെല്ലാ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരിലും പ്രചരിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ദിവാൻജി സ്വാമി അവർകളുടെ ഈ

[Mr. P. Paramesvaran.]

വിശാലഹൃദയത്തിലേക്കായി എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഗ്രാന്റു വാങ്ങുന്ന പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന ഇത്തരം വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം ലഭിച്ചതുനിമിത്തം ഗവർൺമെന്റിനു അനേക ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവുള്ളതായി ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ഇനത്തിലെ ചിലവു എത്രതന്നെ കൂടുതലാകുന്നതായാലും തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവർൺമെന്റു സന്തോഷപൂർവം വഹിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിലേക്കു ഞങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു സംശയവും ഇല്ല.

ഫീസു കുറച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർൺമെന്റു കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയത്തിൽ മതഭേദത്തെയോ ജാതിഭേദത്തെയോ ഗണിക്കാതെ "വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്ന സമുദായം" എന്നുള്ള ഏകതത്വത്തെ മാത്രമാകുന്നു സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഈ തത്വത്തെ നല്ലപോലെ ഗ്രഹിക്കാതെ ചിലർ, അനേകകൊല്ലങ്ങളായി അധഃക്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടു കിടന്നിരുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ നിലയെ അവഗണിച്ചും ഗവർൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഉദാര നയത്തെ അന്യഥാ ശങ്കിച്ചും, ചില പ്രഖ്യാപനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. ഇവയെ അശേഷം ഗണിക്കരുതെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യത്തെ മേലും അനേകകൊല്ലത്തേക്കു സ്ഥിരമാക്കിത്തരണമെന്നും വിശിഷ്യ കാളേജ് വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലും ഈ ആനുകൂല്യം നൽകണമെന്നും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്താൽ മാത്രമെ ഈഴവ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം പ്രചരിക്കാൻ ഇടയാകയുള്ളു. കഴിഞ്ഞ സെൻസസ്സിൻപ്രകാരം ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ഏഴു ലക്ഷത്തോളം ഈഴവർ ഉണ്ടു. ഇതിൽ പാഠശാലകളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നവരുടെ എണ്ണം നൂററിനു പതിനഞ്ചു എന്നുള്ള സർക്കാർ തോതിൻപ്രകാരം ലക്ഷത്തിഅയ്യായിരം പേരാകുന്നു. ഈ ലക്ഷത്തിഅയ്യായിരം പേരിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കുന്നവരുടെ എണ്ണം ൪൬ മാത്രമാണ്. അതായതു് രണ്ടായിരം ഈഴവയുവാക്കന്മാരിൽ ഒരാൾ വീതം അല്ലെങ്കിൽ പതിനയ്യായിരം ഈഴവരിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു മാത്രമെ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കത്തക്ക യോഗ്യത സിദ്ധിച്ചവരുള്ളു എന്നാകുന്നു. പതിനയ്യായിരം ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരാൾക്കു മാത്രമെ കാളേജിൽ പഠിക്കാൻ യോഗ്യത സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു എന്നുള്ള ഏക സംഗതിതന്നെ ഈ സമുദായം ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ എത്രവളരെ പിന്നോക്കം നില്ക്കുന്നു എന്നു യഥാ

ത്ഥത്തെ വളരെ വ്യക്തമായി വിശദമാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏഴു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സമുദായത്തിൽ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടവിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട കടമ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു് നിർവ്വിവാദമാണല്ലോ.

എൻെറ സമുദായത്തിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു സർക്കാർ ഹോസ്റ്റലിൽ പ്രവേശം കിട്ടേണ്ടതിനെ പററി കഴിഞ്ഞ ആണ്ട് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഈ സഭയിൽ വാദപ്രതിവാദം നടന്നപ്പോൾ പുതിയ ഹോസ്റ്റൽ കെട്ടിതീരുന്നതുവരെ ഈഴവവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കും മററു വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കുമായി പ്രത്യേകം ഹോസ്റ്റൽ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു തരാമെന്നു് ഡയറക്ടർ മിസ്റ്റർ ഹാഡ്ജ്സൻ വാഗ്ദത്തം ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. അതിനനുസരണമായി യാതൊരു മേൽനടപ്പും അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു കണ്ടു ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു എഴുതി അയച്ചു ആ കാര്യം ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തി. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ തനിക്കു യാതൊരു ചുമതലയും ഇല്ലാത്ത വിധത്തിലാണ് ഒരു മറുവടി അദ്ദേഹം എഴുതി അയച്ചതു്. എന്നുവരികിലും ഈവിധം തല്ക്കാലമായി ഹോസ്റ്റൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട ചിലവു അടുത്ത ആണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു സംഗതികൂടി എനിക്കു ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുവാനുണ്ടു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ നൽകി വരുന്ന പഠിത്തം ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യാഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ നയത്തെ മാത്രം അനുകരിച്ചുള്ളതാകയാൽ മതസംബന്ധമായൊ മതാചാരസംബന്ധമായൊ ഉള്ള യാതൊരു പാഠവും ഈവിദ്യാലയങ്ങളെ തീണ്ടാൻ ഇടവരുത്തരുതെന്നു ശഠിക്കുന്നപോലെ തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു. ഒരു കാലത്തു് അതായതു നൂറുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു മുതൽ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവർൺമെൻറു തന്നെയും ക്രിസ്തുമതപ്രചാരത്തിനായി അനേകം നിലം പുരയിടങ്ങൾ മിഷ്യനറിമാർക്കു കരം ഒഴിവായി പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. പുലയർ മുതലായ താണ ജാതിക്കാരെ ആയിരക്കണക്കായി ക്രിസ്തു മതത്തിൽ ചേർത്തപ്പോൾ അവരുടെ രക്ഷക്കെന്നു പേരും പറഞ്ഞു അടുത്തകാലത്തു തന്നെയും അനേകം ഏക്കർ പുതുവൽ സ്ഥലം മിഷ്യനറിമാർക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു. അന്യമതസ്ഥന്മാരായിരുന്നാലും അവരും സ്വപ്രജകളാകയാൽ അവരുടെ ഇഷ്ടാനുസരണം ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസം അവരിൽ അങ്കുരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതു തൻെറ കടമയാകുന്നു എന്നുള്ള സ്വധർമ്മബോധമത്രെ ഇങ്ങിനെ വസ്തുക്കൾ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഞങ്ങളുടെ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാനെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ മതം മാറാതെയും ഹിന്ദുമതസംബന്ധമായ

[Mr. P. Paramesvaran.]

പാഠങ്ങൾ ഗ്രഹിക്കാൻ ന്യായമായ മാൎഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഇല്ലാതെയും പരിതപിച്ചു വരുന്ന എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെയും മററു സമുദായങ്ങളുടേയും രക്ഷക്കായി പ്രജാവാത്സല്യനിധിയായ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലേയ്ക്കും അവിടത്തെ വിശ്വസ്തമന്ത്രിയായ സ്വാമി അവർകൾക്കും ഈ ധൎമ്മബോധം വിശാലമായി ഉജ്ജ്വലിക്കയും ഞങ്ങളെ ഹിന്ദുമതത്തിൽ പൂൎണ്ണവിശ്വാസമുള്ളവരായി രക്ഷിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടമാൎഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നു ചെയ്തുതരുവാൻ അംഗീകരിക്കേണ്ടകാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ പരമോദ്ദേശസിദ്ധിക്കായി ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഗുരുസ്വാമികൾ സൎവ്വാത്മനാ പ്രയത്നിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരുന്നിട്ടും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ലഭിക്കേണ്ടതായ ന്യായമായ സഹായങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കായ്കനിമിത്തം അവ പൂൎണ്ണഫലപ്രദങ്ങളായി തീൎന്നിട്ടില്ല. ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലേക്കും ഞങ്ങളുടെ മതാചാൎയ്യനും മിഷ്യനറിമാൎക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു പോലെയുള്ള സഹായങ്ങളിൽ ഒരംശം എങ്കിലും ലഭിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മാത്രമേ സൎക്കാർസ്കൂളുകളിൽ ചേൎന്നു ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസവിഹീനന്മാരായി തീൎന്നുവരുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ യുവാക്കന്മാൎക്കു മതബോധകങ്ങളായ പാഠങ്ങൾ പഠിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു.

ആയുൎവേദചികിത്സാ ഈഴവരുടെ വൃത്തികളിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതായി ഗണിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. പൂൎവ്വകാലം മുതൽക്കേ കീൎത്തിപ്പെട്ട അനേകം വൈദ്യന്മാർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുണ്ടു. പണ്ടുപണ്ടേതന്നെ കൊട്ടാരം വൈദ്യൻ എന്ന സ്ഥാനപ്പേരുകൾ ഞങ്ങളിൽ ഏതാനും കുടുംബക്കാൎക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആയുൎവേദപാഠശാല നാല്പതുകൊല്ലത്തിനു മുമ്പെ സ്ഥാപിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ആദ്യത്തെ ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചിലധികം കൊല്ലത്തോളം ഈഴവവിദ്യാൎത്ഥികളെ അതിൽ ചേൎത്തിരുന്നില്ല. അതിൽ പഠിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്ന വിദ്യാൎത്ഥികളെക്കാൾ കൂടുതലായി വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രപരിജ്ഞാനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈഴവയുവാക്കളെ പ്രൈവററു സ്ററുഡന്റു എന്ന നിലയിൽ ആ പാഠശാലയിലെ പ്രധാനപരീക്ഷകളിൽ ചേരുന്നതിനു കൂടിയും അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. ഈ ദുൎഘടാവസ്ഥ എല്ലാം നീങ്ങീട്ടു പത്തുകൊല്ലമേ ആയിട്ടുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ആയുൎവേദഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേക്കാൾ വൈദ്യവിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരും അവരിൽ ഒട്ടും കുറവില്ലാത്തവരും ആയ ഈഴവർ നടത്തിവരുന്ന വൈദ്യശാലകൾക്കും ഗവർ

ണ്മെൻറ് ഗ്രാൻറു കിട്ടാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. അനേകം നഗരങ്ങളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൎക്കാർ വൈദ്യന്മാരേക്കാൾ ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാരെയാകുന്നു വിശ്വാസമുള്ളതും. അതുകൊണ്ട് വൈദ്യശാലകൾക്ക് ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാൎയ്യത്തിൽ ഈഴവൎക്ക് ന്യായമായ സഹായം ലഭിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഗ്രാൻറു വൈദ്യശാലകളുടെ എണ്ണം വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആകെ എൺപത്തൊന്നു ഗ്രാൻറു വൈദ്യശാലകളുള്ളതിൽ ഏഴോ എട്ടോ മാത്രമേ ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാരുടേതായിട്ടുള്ളു.

ഔഷധങ്ങൾ പാകംചെയ്യുന്നതിന് പ്രത്യേകവാസനയും പരിചയവും സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈഴവവൈദ്യന്മാർ അനേകം പേർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും സൎക്കാർവക ആയുൎവ്വേദഫാൎമ്മസിയിൽ അങ്ങനെ ഉള്ള ഈഴവരിൽ ഒരാളെപ്പോലും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈ ഫാൎമ്മസിക്കായി ആണ്ടുതോറും രണ്ടായിരത്തിനാനൂറു രൂപായിൽ അധികം സിൽബന്തികളുടെ ശമ്പളമായി ചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ ഫാൎമ്മസിയിൽ നിന്നും ആയുൎവേദാശുപത്രിയിലേക്ക് ഏഴായിരത്തിഅഞ്ഞൂറുരൂപാ വിലയ്ക്കുള്ള ഔഷധങ്ങൾ വിലയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നു. ഈ ഔഷധങ്ങൾ ശാസ്ത്രീയമായവിധത്തിൽ പാകം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളവ അല്ലഎന്ന് ഒരു അപഖ്യാതി വൎത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങളിൽ കൂടെക്കൂടെ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. നാട്ടുവൈദ്യത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പാശ്ചാത്യവൈദ്യത്തേക്കാൾ വളരെ പ്രതിപത്തിയും വിശ്വാസവും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്മേൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അപഖ്യാതിയെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടതു പ്രവൎത്തിച്ചതിന്മേൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽധനം ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ചിലവുചെയ്തു ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന് ഉപകാരപ്രദമാക്കിത്തീൎക്കണമെന്നു അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. I do not know if it is open to members of this House to make personal appeals to the Dewan when he presides here as President of this Council.

PRESIDENT: I am inclined to say that it is not in order.

MR. P. PARAMESVARAN: പുതുതായി അനേകം ഏൎപ്പാടുകൾ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രാരംഭപ്രവൃത്തികൾക്ക് രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കൊള്ളിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലേക്ക് ശാശ്വതമായ ക്ഷേമം വരുത്തുന്നതിലേക്കുള്ള ദിവാൻജിസ്വാമി അവൎകളുടെ ദീൎഘാലോചനയെ വിശദീകരിക്കുന്നതാണല്ലോ.

ഇനി അവസാനമായി ഒരു സംഗതിമാത്രം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു എൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തെ ഞാൻ ഉപസംഹരിക്കാം. ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തി

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

ന്റെ ഭരണാധികാരത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പൂർണ്ണമായ ചുമതലകളും ഭരണങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന ദിവാൻ ബഹദൂർ റ്റി. രാഘവയ്യാ അവർകൾക്ക് പ്രതിമാസം ആയിരം ബ്രിട്ടീഷുരൂപാ ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടികൊടുക്കാൻ കല്പിച്ച് അനുവദിച്ചതിൽ മഹാരാജാതിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉദാരനയത്തെ എത്രതന്നെ ശ്ലാഘിച്ചാലും മതിയാകുന്നതല്ലാ. ഈ സംസ്ഥാനത്തുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ പേര്, സർവ്വീസ്, ശമ്പളം മുതലായവിവരങ്ങൾ ആദ്യമായിഅച്ചടിച്ചു പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തിയതു് ആയിരത്തിനാല്പത്തഞ്ചാമാണ്ടിൽ ആയിരുന്നു. ആ പുസ്തകം ഞാൻ നോക്കിയതിൽ അന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി ആയിരുന്ന സർ. ടി. മാധവരായർ അവർകൾക്ക് രണ്ടായിരം രൂപാ ശമ്പളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അന്നത്തെ ഹൈക്കോടതി ജഡ്ജിമാർക്കും പേഷ്കാരന്മാർക്കും അഞ്ഞൂറു രൂപാ വീതവും ജില്ലാജഡ്ജിമാർക്കു ഇരുനൂറുരൂപാവീതവും തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കും മുൻസിഫ്ന്മാർക്കും നൂറുരൂപായിൽ കവിയാതെയും, അന്നത്തെ കാളേജ് പ്രൊഫസറന്മാർക്ക് നൂറുരൂപാവീതവും മാത്രമെ ശമ്പളമുണ്ടായിരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ദിവാൻജിയെ ഒഴിച്ച് മററല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയും ശമ്പളം അന്നത്തേതിൽ നിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും നാലും ഇരട്ടിവീതം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. രാജ്യഭരണക്ലേശം അന്നത്തേതിൽനിന്നും പതിന്മടങ്ങ് ദുർഭരമായ് വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിട്ടും ദിവാൻജിക്ക് മാത്രം ശമ്പളം അൻപത്തഞ്ചുകൊല്ലം മുമ്പെയുള്ള തോതിൽ നിന്നിരുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. അതു് അനുചിതമെന്നുകണ്ട് കല്പിച്ച് കാലോചിതമായ് ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യക്ഷേമത്തെമാത്രം മുൻനിർത്തിയും അതിനെമാത്രം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കിയും നിഷ്പക്ഷപാതമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുവരുന്ന ദിവാൻജിസ്വാമി അവർകളെ ഈഴവസമുദായത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിനിധിഎന്നനിലയിൽ ഞാൻ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: I believe there are no more non-official gentlemen who are going to speak. There is not much time left for the officials. However, I would call upon such of them as wish to speak to come forward. I would request them to be brief in their speeches seeing that the Financial Secretary's reply will necessarily be long.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered on the working of the P. W. D. which is now controlled by me and for which I am thankful, may be summarised under the following heads:—

1. Excessive Establishment,
2. Paper allotments and grants unspent,
3. More allotments for communications,
4. More allotments for Minor Irrigation and
5. Maintenance of Village roads.

I shall take these one by one and explain as briefly as possible, the actual facts with full confidence that misapprehensions, if any, will be removed.

The department has undergone a very severe retrenchment sanctioned towards the close of 1097 and given effect to early in 1098. The post of the Deputy Chief Engineer which was in existence from 1086 has been abolished. The Chief Engineer used to be assisted by an Executive Engineer of the workshops or the Trivandrun Division even previously *i. e.* from 1073 to 1086. Now there is only an Assistant Engineer to help the Chief Engineer in his office. The number of Executive Engineers for charge of Divisions has been reduced from 9 to 6 and that of P. W. ordinary Divisions excluding the Workshops and Stores Division from 6 to 5. The number of Assistant Engineers for executive work has been reduced from 15 to 10, increasing the number of Sub-Engineers who have a lesser scale of pay, from 3 to 5. The number of Sub-divisions has been reduced from 17 to 14. The number of upper subordinates has been reduced from 62 to 48 and the number of section charges from 58 to 47. The number of lower subordinates for full executive duty has been reduced from 23 to 8. The savings made available by the above retrenchment were mostly utilised to meet the increases due to the raising of the pay necessitated by the after effects of the War, of officers drawing Rs. 100 and less, both executive and ministerial. The increases given cannot be said to be even liberal. Men who were previously drawing Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 have been given a scale of only Rs. 80 to Rs. 120. Those who had a scale of Rs. 60 to Rs. 85 were given a scale of Rs. 75 to Rs. 100. Those who were drawing Rs. 35 and Rs. 45 were given only a scale of Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 and those who were drawing Rs. 60 were given a scale of only Rs. 50 to Rs. 70. The clerks who were drawing Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 were given a scale of Rs. 35 to Rs. 50. The starting scale for clerks was fixed only at Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. This starting pay of Rs. 20 had been sanctioned in 1086.

I would earnestly request the members to note from the above that there has been a very heavy retrenchment effected, which has added heavily to my responsibility in administering the department in the very first year of my charge and that the saving effected has been utilised in giving the much-needed relief to the subordinate staff who were drawing Rs. 100 and less.

PRESIDENT: Please read a little more slowly; the House cannot follow you.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Then I must be given more time.

PRESIDENT: No more than your allotted time.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There are several misapprehensions to be removed. I cannot finish within the time allotted if I read slowly. (*Laughter.*) The pay of the higher officers was left untouched. The Chief Engineer's pay stands where it was for the past 26 years and more. It is supposed to correspond to the pay of a Superintending Engineer, Madras, whose old scale

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of pay stood at about Rs. 1,200 and whose present scale of pay stands at Rs. 1,750 to Rs. 2,150. The pay of the Executive Engineer stands at Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 as sanctioned in 1086. Even so far back as 1073 it was Rs. 450 to Rs. 800. The Madras Provincial Executive Engineer, with the same qualifications and less work, who had till recently a scale of only Rs. 500 to Rs. 800, is now given a scale rising up to Rs. 1,250 and more. The Assistant Engineers, Sub-Engineers and Supervisors, 1st and 2nd grade, retain the grades severally sanctioned for them in 1086 and previously.

Now considering the percentage of establishment to the total outlay on works, establishment, and tools and plant, the Travancore rate has been keeping up an average of 17 per cent for the years 1086 to 1097 and this is being maintained more or less—varying with the grants made available for works according to the exigencies of other Government commitments and necessities. Government in their G. O. No. P. W. 6,640 A, dated the 20th October 1910, have fixed the ratio at 20 per cent., after a careful consideration of the circumstances prevailing here. This ratio has never been reached except during the years 1091 to 1094 when the grant to the P. W. D. was reduced by about Rs. 10 lakhs owing to the then depressed state of the finances brought about by war conditions. They observe in paragraph 6 thereof as follows:

"His Highness' Government feel that a ratio of 13 to 100 or even 16 to 100, cannot be consistent with good work, and that what is saved in establishment charges is probably being lost (several times over) by bad work, due to the absence of adequate higher supervision. During the last three years, several Executive Engineers' Divisions had to be worked by Assistant Engineers and several Sub-Divisions had to be worked by First and even Second grade Overseers. Work must have suffered on his account. It seems to Government that, taking the whole P. W. D. outlay of a year into consideration, an expenditure of 20 per cent. of that outlay on "Establishment" cannot be excessive if the wastage due to bad work is to be avoided. If the average P. W. outlay is taken to be Rs. 23 lakhs, the establishment charges may well work up to Rs. 4·6 lakhs."

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to ask Mr. Natesa Aiyar, whether in consideration of the fact that the inspection of boilers and engines is now done by a competent Industrial Engineer, there is any necessity of having an Executive Engineer and an Assistant Engineer in the Workshops Division.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I may very well say at this stage that the Workshops Committee will look into the question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): It is the Chief Engineer's opinion on that matter that I wish to have.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I may inform him that it is only a very small portion of the work of Mr. Parratt that has been transferred to the new Industrial Engineer.

I am given only a very small time and I do not wish to be disturbed. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I may tell Mr. Natesa Aiyar that I am satisfied with his answer. I do not wish to disturb him. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The Madras ratio is said to be 25 to 30 per cent. and the budget for 1923-1924 shows that it is 26½ per cent. for Buildings and Communications and 28 per cent. for Irrigation, and Navigation, and an average of 27 per cent. for both together. If we compare the outlay on establishment with that on works alone the Travancore percentage stands at about 21, whereas the Madras percentage stands at about 37 per cent.

Comparing the work of the staff, the allotment for works in the Madras P. W. D. is about 5 times what it is here now. We have here 1 Chief Engineer and 1 Assistant Engineer under Direction, whereas in Madras they have 2 Chief Engineers, 4 Deputy and Assistant Secretaries, 3 Consulting Architects, 5 Superintending Engineers, 1 Sanitary Engineer and 3 Deputy and Assistant Sanitary Engineers, all coming under Direction. Under Construction we have 6 Executive Engineers including the one in charge of the Workshops and Stores and 16 Assistant and 5 Sub-Engineers, whereas in Madras they have 32 Executive Engineers, 27 Assistant Executive Engineers, 4 Superintendents of the same status as the above for Workshops, 79 Assistant Engineers and 5 Sub-Engineers. The average grant for works in a P. W. Division here is 4½ lakhs and in Madras it is less than 3½ lakhs. The average grant for a Sub-Division in Travancore is Rs. 1·6 lakhs, against about 1 lakh in Madras.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know how many Executive Engineers there are in the Tinnevelly District?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There is perhaps only one, proportionate to the expenditure there, which is Rs. 3 lakhs or less.

I hope that the above figures will convince the members who are interested in the administration of the P. W. D. that it is being conducted on as economical lines as possible. The demand for more allotments and retrenchment of superior staff will conduce only to the lessening of the efficiency and not to the improving of it in which all of us are wholeheartedly interested.

Coming now to the next point, *i. e.*, paper allotments and grants unspent, I have to state that it was inevitable in some instances where allotments had been provided in the budget, for works without even a preliminary rough estimate of cost or for works the outlay on which had largely exceeded the sanction or for works which could very well wait. The Account Officer and the Government have been repeatedly pointing out the irregular expenditure which was being incurred by the P. W. D. under several main heads *viz.*, want of sanctioned estimates, excess over sanctioned estimates, want of allotment, and excess over allotments.

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

These were being carefully looked into by the Division Officers this year, and estimates and revised estimates were being got ready, designs were being prepared and the irregular outlays being regularised. Accordingly, the works concerned did not make proportionate progress in the first half of the year. I believe the members and Government expect me to keep strict watch over all irregular expenditure. There are instances of works being resumed immediately the estimates or revised estimates were ready and proper explanations for the excesses were forthcoming from the Division Officers.

The reorganisation brought into force in the beginning of the year along with the retrenchment of the staff has also had some disturbing effect. The Kodayar Project Division and the Trivandrum Division were enlarged each by the addition of one Sub-division and one section and the Canal Sub-division which was attached to the Quilon division was abolished and the several sections were added on to the respective Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye Divisions. There were necessarily changes in three Division charges, and several Sub-division and section charges. The progress of works was consequently hampered, and could not compare favourably with what obtained in 1097 in the first half of the year. But conditions settled towards Minam and the proportionate expenditure from Minam onwards compares very favourably with what it was in 1097. A few Division Officers reported small surrenders but some others applied for more allotments. On the whole, I do not anticipate at this stage any large lapse. The lapses are a normal feature of departments like the P. W. D. and it is not wise to spend up funds for the mere pleasure of spending them up.

In regard to the lapses referred to by the Financial Secretary in his speech or memorandum, and adverted to by some of the members, I have to state that the lapses shown in the budget relate mainly to the Delhi Palace Works and establishment and reserve.

Regarding more allotment for communications, I have to state whatever schemes and estimates were ready have been duly provided for to the extent of our spending capacity. If more schemes and estimates can be got ready in the course of the year, it may be possible to find funds from the reserve or by supplemental grants. As usual, the Alwaye and Kottayam Divisions comprising practically the Kottayam Revenue Division get an allotment of Rs 3,13,000 under works while the Quilon Division corresponding fairly to the Revenue Division gets Rs. 1,69,000 and the Trivandrum P. W. D. Division and the Kodayar Project Division get only Rs. 48,000 and Rs. 51,000 each. It is not fair to judge taluk by taluk. We do not keep accounts by taluks and all will agree that the taluks in a Division are all interconnected and interrelated to one another.

Regarding the inadequate allotment for new works under communications, I have to state that the incomplete works already in hand must have their due share of the available allotment, before launching on new works and schemes.

Regarding more allotments for Minor Irrigation, I have to state that the budget allotment for works in 1098 was only Rs. 68,000 and that it has been found possible to increase it to Rs. 1,14,000 in 1099. It may be mentioned here that all breaches which were caused by the cyclone of Vrischikam last in channels and tanks were immediately closed, without allowing the cultivation to suffer, and many of the tanks in Eraniel, Vilavankod and Neyattinkara, taluks which had either breached 30 or 15 years back or gone into disrepair were taken up and the necessary improvements carried out. The long-standing breaches on the Kallada left bank were all successfully closed in the year and the lands are said to have escaped the floods during the recent monsoon rains. A reserve of Rs. 20,000 has been provided under this head, and all urgent works which may have been omitted will be carried out as soon as brought to notice.

Regarding the works in north Travancore, the department is now spending on maintenance and upkeep of the tidal bunds, etc., in the Alwaye Division a sum of about Rs. 10,600. If the requirements of the interior taluks are brought to notice, the necessary steps will be taken. The rules under the Irrigation Regulation recently published, apply to all the taluks of the State.

Regarding village roads, I have to state that this department is expected to maintain in proper condition about 1,200 miles of such roads at an average grant of Rs. 20 per mile per annum. Out of these, about 762 miles have only a grant varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. Most of the village roads are in the Quilon and Alwaye P. W. Divisions. The policy of the department has been, wherever the small grant cannot be usefully utilised on the roads concerned, to utilise the grants for improving other important roads in the Division or Sub-division or taluk as may be found desirable. Instructions have been issued to utilise the grants on the roads themselves, as far as possible. I am afraid that, until Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats are established and they come forward to take up the upkeep of the local roads including village roads and traces, whatever may be done by this department may not be appreciated.

Regarding the railway from Kottarakara northwards, the survey of the line from Trivandrum to the south has first to be completed and an idea obtained as to the feasibility and cost involved, before embarking on the Kottarakara-Alwaye survey.

Regarding the bridge across the Alwaye river on the road to Parur, it is a very costly undertaking and we have to wait until the railway bridge at Alwaye is widened and the effect observed.

As to the observation of Mr. Nidiry regarding the Guest House Superintendent, the Sub-Engineer has been there for some years. The present incumbent is giving satisfaction and it may not be possible to find another equally good at a lesser pay.

Regarding Mr. Panjikaran's complaint that the "construction of bridges on the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road has not been budgeted

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for in 1099, I have to state that, when he kindly met me in the Chief Engineer's office, I pointed out that provision has been made for the work in item 127 of the detailed P. W. budget. Apparently this has slipped from his memory. The expenditure on the work as reported by the Division officer to the end of Edavom is Rs. 3,400 and the piles and other iron materials indented for are expected to be supplied in this month.

In regard to his statement that the Chief Engineer was not conversant or posted up with the details of expenditure on works, I have to state that reports are being received from the Division officers monthly but the Alwaye Division statement for Mithunam has not been received as yet. I was therefore unable to give the up-to-date information wanted by him about the works in the Alwaye Division. I have already told him that an estimate for extending the Shertallai canal at the Shertallai end would be called for and as soon as it is received and passed by Government, the work can be started.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I was not able to understand what the Chief Engineer was saying. He could not be heard.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Regarding Mr. Panjikaran's complaint that the construction of bridges on the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road has not been budgeted for in 1099, I have to state that when he kindly met me in the Chief Engineer's office I pointed out that provision has been made for the work in item 127 of the budget.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Under 'culverts and bridges' no allotment is made.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work has not been included under that item. In this particular case, the construction of the bridges is included in the estimate for the road itself.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Then what is the meaning of putting a separate head for 'culverts and bridges'?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): This is a matter of estimating.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): The bridge across the Shertallai canal has been under construction for the past so many years.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I will issue instructions to expendite the work.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is the Chief Engineer aware that in the Alleppey-Shertallai canal the Shertallai end is covered up by sand for want of maintenance?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Yes; there is no traffic there. That is a small matter.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I wish to know whether if the canal is silted up it would be a small matter?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The local executive Engineer will be asked to see to it.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, among the few members who spoke about the working of the Agricultural Department I find my old friends, Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai and Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai accused the department of not having introduced new crops. Well, I must plead guilty to that charge. I must say I have not succeeded—of course, I have not attempted—in introducing into Travancore wheat, barley, oats or turnip, crops that grow in cold countries. The department has been concentrating its attention on the improvement of the existing crops, and I believe the Travancore Agricultural Department is not the only department that has committed that mistake—if it is a mistake. If you are acquainted with the work of the department in any other part of India, I do not think you will find a single instance of the Agricultural Department having succeeded in introducing into the country new crops. Everywhere they are concentrating their attention on the improvement of the existing crops.

Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai then said that the demonstrations that are being conducted are not successful. I do not know if he takes the trouble of reading my annual reports. I am not sure whether he has copies of it. If not, I shall be glad to supply him with copies. Last year's annual report, for instance, will show that, as regards paddy, one of our most important crops, the department conducted demonstrations on ryots' lands in as many as 34 centres and all these demonstrations produced very good results. The same will be found in the case of cocoanut, another important crop, on which we are concentrating our attention; and, wherever we have spent one rupee for manure or for improved seeds, we find invariably—of course there may be failures also—that we get at least two rupees.

Mr. Kunjitomman thinks that the expenditure incurred on the Agricultural Department is too much and that the expenditure can conveniently be reduced. I shall just give a few figures, Sir, to show that the expenditure that the Travancore Government incur on account of the Agricultural Department is not only not high but not even adequate. In Bombay they are spending on an average Rs. 8·3 for 100 of the population, in Madras, Rs. 3, in Mysore, Rs. 6·8, in Baroda Rs. 4·9 and in Travancore we are spending Rs. 3·9. If we take revenue as the criterion, for every thousand rupees of the total revenue Bombay is spending Rs. 11, Madras Rs. 7·7, Baroda Rs. 4·9, Mysore Rs. 12·8 and Travancore Rs. 7·8. Well, at any rate, these figures—I have not taken the case of western countries—show that the expenditure in Travancore on the Agricultural Department is by no means excessive, compared to the expenditure in other parts of India.

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask what proportion of the expenditure on the Agricultural Department is paid to the officers and what is actually spent on the work of improvement.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not calculated that percentage. I think that that information is available in the budget.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I asked the question, because, if in addition to these interesting figures given by him, he had also worked out the figures I wanted, he could have carried conviction. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: No experiments can be conducted unless there is somebody to make the experiments, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): From the nature of the figures given by Dr. Kunjan Pillai we were able to draw certain conclusions. In order to compare and to be benefited by the percentage given by him I wanted to know the percentage spent on salaries and on experiments.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): In British Indian provinces or in Travancore?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Only for Travancore.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The figures I quoted include all the charges. I shall work out the percentage wanted and furnish it to Mr. Velu Pillai later on.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want them. I shall work them out myself.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Another charge against the department is that the usefulness of the department is not in any way proportionate to the expenditure incurred. Mr. Kunjitomman thinks that maintenance of Agricultural Farms is necessary but that a few acres, say 10 or 12 will be ample. Sir, I differ from him. Experimental and demonstration farms in India and elsewhere are very large and are generlly 200 or 300 acres in extent. He admits the necessity for maintaining experimental farms, but questions the usefulness of the department compared to the expenditure incurred. That is a matter of opinion. I can give illustrations to show the usefulness of the department. I think gentlemen of this House will admit that during the last 10 or 12 years there has been a general awakening throughout the country for agricultural improvement. It may be, some may say, due to other causes. I think I must say that the department has also contributed to that general awakening in the country. Wherever you go, you find cultivators taking interest in agricultural improvements and asking for information about new methods of manuring and cultivation.

As a matter of fact the enquiries received in my office conclusively prove the awakening in the country in agricultural improvements. It is not possible to show results all over the country at once. But if you go to any part of Travancore, you will find one or other item of interest in regard to agricultural improvements. Go to Nagercoil side; you will find that we have succeeded in introducing improvement, for instance, in economic planting of one or two seedlings. Then go to Alleppey side; you will find there improvements in regard to *punja* cultivation. Those who are acquainted with *punja* cultivation will admit that, till about a few years ago, nobody even tried lime on their lands. If you go now and ask any *punja* ryot, I am sure he will tell you that lime is essential for his soil. Go to any part of Travancore, you will find clear evidence of the work the department has done. It is in regard to the adequacy of the work of the department that I differ from some of the members. Then, Sir, my friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai, has given some figures. I must give some more figures to prove the inaccuracy of his statements.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does he realise that the figures for Mysore are wrong? Mysore spends Rs. 1,85,000 out of a revenue of Rs. 2,90,00,000.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I took the figures from 1922—23 Mysore budget and it includes expenditure on sericulture also.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No. My figures are from the latest *i. e.,* 1923—24 Mysore budget.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): How does it work out at six per cent. in the revenue?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Rs. 4¾ crores.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*):- Rs. 6·8 for every hundred persons of the population and Rs. 12·8 per Rs. 1,000 of the total revenue. I gave two sets of figures. I made a mistake in the heading. One is Rs. 6·8 for 100 of the population and the other is Rs. 12·8 per Rs. 1,000 of the total revenue.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I believe that a mistake has arisen with regard to other figures also.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): For one hundred of the population the cost is Rs. 6·8 and for one thousand rupees of the total revenue the cost is Rs. 12·8 for Mysore. The corresponding figures for Travancore are Rs. 3·9 and Rs. 7·8. These figures are all right. Only I am sorry I made a mistake in regard to the heading. Then, my friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai gave some figures. He always goes by the value of paddy imported. I don't agree there. To get an idea of our position in regard to the paddy that we import, we should only look to the actual quantity imported. In regard to that, during the four years before the war, I find we were importing on an average 1,31,592 tons of paddy per annum, during the

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four years of the war the average was 1,45,877 tons per annum and during the four years after the war the average was 1,50,851 tons per annum. And so the increase from the pre-war period to the present period, *i. e.*, for 12 years, is only 14·6 per cent. Well, from the figures which Mr. Kumara Pillai quoted this morning, the increase appeared to be considerably more; that does not represent the correct situation. But, when the quantity is taken into consideration, the increase is only 14·6 per cent. as I said. You must also take into consideration the increase of population. From 1086 to 1097 the population increased by 577,087 roughly. It has been calculated from a number of data that the average food requirement per head per annum is one-fifth of a ton. If you take into account the increase of population from 1086 to 1097, there should have been an increase in the import of paddy to the extent of 115,417 tons. But the actual increase is only 19,259 tons of paddy. This shows that we have produced locally more paddy, or at any rate, more foodstuffs. I don't emphasise the production of paddy particularly. It may be that we have produced more tapioca or more fish.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know if the fluctuation in prices may not have considerably affected the quantity imported ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : I have not taken that factor into consideration.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I will try to explain. My figures are for decennial periods, say, from 1056 to 1066, 1066 to 1076. I have taken the total value and then divided it by population. That is how I arrived at the average figure.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I must say that the figures in regard to quantity are not available to Mr. Kumara Pillai and so, he takes value only into consideration. That is not a correct criterion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*) : In 20 years prices have increased. Taking this into consideration you must calculate and arrive at the quantity.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Such of those figures as are available have been taken from the reports of the Excise Department. I find from 1086 to 1097 there is an increase of population by 577,081. The increased import of paddy is 19,259 tons only whereas we should have imported 1,15,417 tons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*) : He has taken four years before the war, four years during the war and four years after the war.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : I am obliged to ask one more question. Has Dr. Kunjan Pillai been able to find out the figures regarding the increase in the quantity of paddy imported into Madras and Cochin during the last five years and

compare it with the quantity imported into Travancore? I ask this question, because he gave us detailed figures of income and expenditure on agriculture.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am sorry I have not got those figures. But I have some information which, I think, will be useful to him. In Mysore the Dewan, in his recent speech, said that for the population there which is about 5½ millions, food requirement is estimated at 111,92,000 *pallas*; but the country produces only 81,47,968 *pallas*, that is, two thirds of the requirements; and one third is imported.

PRESIDENT: That does not answer the question.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Ceylon, for example, has got very nearly 800,000 acres of land under paddy cultivation and a population of about 45 lakhs, that is, as much as ours, and yet Ceylon imports very nearly 4,85,000 tons of paddy every year. The inadequacy of local production of food-stuffs is a common phenomenon all over the world.

It must also be remembered that while we imported nearly Rs. 226,00,000 worth of paddy and rice in 1097 we sent out nearly Rs. 3,60,73,258 worth of cocoanut products. This means that we produce cocoanut products and send them out and buy paddy and rice. This is a common phenomenon everywhere. For example, Ceylon, which produces rubber and tea, exports those articles and imports paddy and other articles instead.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not due to the fact that more lands are brought under cultivation?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): That also has been taken into consideration.

Mr. Kochukunju Pillai spoke about the concession granted to Mr. Cox for the exploitation of *eeta*. This question came up before the Economic Development Board. Mr. Kochukunju Pillai said that we are not going to get any revenue out of it. That is not a fact. We are going to get by this concession very nearly Rs. 10,000 per annum and that from an area from which we are not getting anything now. This is capable of further development, but to begin with we shall get at least Rs. 10,000 annually.

One word more. Mr. Kumara Pillai spoke about the condition of the Sri Mulam Technical School here. Sir, we are all talking of technical education. We find that our education is too literary, and all the boys turned out of the school cannot get employment. The representatives of the people have been urging upon the Government the necessity to provide more technical education and the Government have started besides other schools, the Sri Mulam Technical School. At my instance, they have also started agricultural schools. These are intended to provide technical education to the boys. Government can only provide this education by starting technical schools and cannot undertake the responsibility of finding employment for all the boys, who are being

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trained in these schools. It is too much to expect of Government to do so. They have started these schools. Boys come in and get themselves trained, and when they pass out they are given certificates. The same is the case in regard to agricultural schools also. We started out at Alwaye and propose to start another at Kottarakarai.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the question of unemployment is absolutely no concern of Government?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It is not for me to answer that question. It is a broad question of policy.

PRESIDENT: What Dr. Kunjan Pillai implies is that it should be the effort of Government to tackle with the unemployment question. The institution of these schools is for the purpose of enabling the boys to be useful for the purpose.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, quite a large number of points have been raised during this discussion with respect to the Education Department. It would have given me very great pleasure to deal with all of them, but the sudden and inexplicable attack of dumbness which afflicted members on that side of the House yesterday afternoon, happily only temporarily, has curtailed our time and I am afraid that it is only possible to deal with one or two points.

The point which I think has raised more interest than any others is the question of fee concessions granted to backward classes and depressed classes. I need say nothing, I think, about the fee concession granted to the *depressed* classes. Only one member, I believe, has raised any kind of opposition to it. I think it was my friend Mr. K. P. Ramakrishna Pillai whose idea seems to be that the depressed classes are somewhat pampered—

PRESIDENT: He is known as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry I was not properly understood by Mr. Hodgson. I did not say anything against them.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): He said that some day the marriages of their daughters would be undertaken by Government, and if this is not 'pampering' I don't know what is.

I think, Sir, I need say nothing further on the question of fee concession to the depressed classes because I take it that everybody agrees that the concessions are right and proper.

I should like to say, however, something with regard to the concession granted to other classes of the community who are described

as backward classes. I should like to say first of all that caste considerations have nothing whatsoever to do with this question. It was decided on two principal grounds. The first ground was that of literacy. In considering the condition of literacy of the population of Travancore, we saw that with the exception of the three classes, Brahmins, Nairs and Christians, all the other classes of the population put together reached barely one per cent. of literacy in English. Therefore it was thought right and proper that those classes who showed practically no percentage of literacy in English should be encouraged to attend English schools in greater numbers. I might also say that the fact that all these classes are, with a few individual exceptions, poor, was also taken into consideration.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How was it ascertained?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I think that it is common knowledge that they are generally poor.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know what the percentage of literacy among the Nambudiri Brahmins is?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I must ask for notice of that question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know if Mr. Hodgson is aware of the answer given by the Government of Travancore at the last session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to the Nadar community when they pressed for a similar concession and the ground on which that answer was given?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give the answer at the present moment and I do not know the reason for the answer given by Government.

I take it from what some of the members said yesterday and to-day that they would like to have the same fee concession granted to members of communities who are not backward in English education but who are poor and deserving. I might say in that connection that that also has not escaped the attention of Government. I would point out that last year when a certain sum of money was set apart for distribution to the classes in English schools that were regarded as backward in point of English literacy, *i. e.*, to the classes excluding Nairs, Christians and Brahmins, a certain percentage of that amount was at the same time given to those members of the Brahmin, Christian and Nair communities who were certified to be poor and deserving. I think that will show that the Government have not lost sight of the fact that there are poor pupils among all classes; and I may say further that the Scholarships Committee which was appointed about a year ago and on which certain non-official members of this House sat, have recommended that the principal ground for the award of scholarships should be poverty combined with merit.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Was any concession given to the poor among the Brahmins? Why do you not grant concessions to poor Brahmin, Nair and other caste Hindus?

PRESIDENT : Mr. Hodgson was just now saying that such a provision was made and scholarships given last year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : What is the extent of the amount that was spent on behalf of other communities last year?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : The total amount spent for the different communities is Rs. 6,600. The amounts actually given to each community, I cannot give now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know whether there is any arrangement in the department whereby the children of Eurasians,—I mean Anglo-Indians (*laughter*)—should learn Malayalam and Tamil? I enquire whether the children of Anglo-Indians who are permanently settled down are being encouraged by this concesssion to learn Malayalam and Tamil, the languages of the country.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I do not think they are directly encouraged to do so. They are being encouraged to go to schools where the curriculum provides for the study of these two languages also.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know whether Mr. Hodgson is aware that the question of fee concessions was beyond the scope of the reference to the Scholarships Committee?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I do not deny that. Nor did I say anything on that point at all. I referred to the Scholarships Committee and said that that committee has made a recommendation to the Government that the award of scholarships should be primarily on the ground of proverty combined with merit. But when we come to the question of poverty, there is one very great difficulty. Members of this Council who served on that committee admitted that it is not always possible to be sure that pupils are poor. The fact is, as I think, Mr. Kumaran who was a member of that committee has observed, that while there are certain pupils about whose poverty there can be no manner of doubt, there are a very great number of cases where it is impossible to say and is extremely difficult to prove that the pupil is really poor. Nevertheless, I believe that it is the intention of the Government to endeavour to establish some form of agency by which that matter may be determined, and I think I am not going too far in saying that, if some such agency can be set up, then the poor pupil may be given a concession, no matter to what creed he belongs.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know whether, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Director of

Public Instruction that a boy belonging to the depressed classes is rich and can afford to pay the fee, the fee can be realised from him even though he belongs to one of the depressed classes?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Not under the present regulations. But there is nothing to prevent such a boy paying fees. And I may say that I have known cases in England of young men getting open scholarships at Oxford University who surrendered the whole of the value because they had private means.

Another point that was raised yesterday and partly today was the treatment accorded to private schools by the department. The Rev. Father Kuriakose Vettikapalli and Mr. Hoogewerf and Mr. Nidiry, all talked on that matter. The Rev. Father and Mr. Nidiry began by attacking Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell, said Mr. Nidiry, declared war on private schools. Sir, we all know that the evil that men do lives after them, and the good is oft forgotten when they take their pension. So let it not be with Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell did not declare war against private schools but against *bad* private schools? (*Hear hear and laughter.*) He did help any well-conducted private school. It is true that Dr. Mitchell's policy was to establish Government schools, not because he condemned all private schools but because he wanted to establish a pattern and a model on which private schools may be conducted. The Rev. Father stated, and Mr. Nidiry said the same somewhat grudgingly, that the policy of the department is more lenient towards private schools than it used to be. I am sorry that they spoke so grudgingly because my plea is that the policy of the Government has been for several years most encouraging to private enterprise and I think the figures that I can put forward will prove the truth of my contention. To-day the department maintains only 1,100 educational institutions, while private managers conduct as many as 2,092. These figures speak for themselves.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the expenditure on these two classes of schools?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Rev. Father stated that it was rather a niggardly policy of the Government to allot only Rs. 4,68,000 to private schools. I do not know where he got his figures from.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): From the Administration Report of last year, *i. e.* 1097.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Last year? We are not discussing the Administration Report of last year. We are discussing the budget of 1099, and if the Rev. Father will look—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That is the latest figure available.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Well, no doubt, if he looks into the budget for 1099 he will find that the sum

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allotted towards private schools is Rs. 7,52,250, wihch is a very liberal allotment. That sum, I might say, is equal to the whole educational budget of Dr. Mitchell's day who had only about Rs. 7½ lakhs.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*) : Will the Director of Public Instruction tell me how many private schools there were when Dr. Mitchell left Travancore?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : Obviously not so many as there are now. But I cannot give the exact number.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I am asking another question. I wish to know whether a private school or a Government school is cheaper from the point of view of Government finance.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : Necessarily a private school costs Government less than a Government school.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In private schools—

PRESIDENT : How does this question of comparative cost of private and departmental schools arise now ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : In order to consider the policy of encouraging private education, we should have an idea of the comparative expenditure on either and see if it is to our interest to add to the number of departmental schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In the departmental schools, the lowest teacher gets Rs. 14, or if he is trained Rs. 15 and the headmaster Rs.19. In private schools, the Government grant for the lowest class teacher will be about Rs. 7½ and never more than Rs. 11 or Rs. 12 so that it necessarily costs Government much more to conduct departmental schools than to aid private schools.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Will Mr. Hodgson tell me one or two instances where Dr. Mitchell had been encouraging private institutions ?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes. The Scott Christian High School at Nagercoil, and the C. M. S. College at Kottayam and others were encouraged.

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKAPALLI : (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): They were exceptions. Does Mr. Hodgson know that Dr. Mitchell was bargaining to purchase as many of the private institutions as he could ?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : I have no information on that point. Then I was going to point out that in addition to this allotment for grants-in-aid aggregating to Rs. 7,52,250 the private schools also participate in the scholarships given by Government and participate largely in them ; and they also participate in the stipends to private school teachers who go to the training schools or the Training College. I should say that it is not far off Rs. 8 lakhs that goes to

help private enterprise. I think, Sir, that it may be conceded that the policy of the Government towards private schools at the present day is not niggardly. On the other hand, if we are charged with want of sympathy, I should, in fairness to the department say that often it is really not because we do not wish to encourage them, but because managers and would-be managers stand in the way. It is the practice of the managers to open schools and classes without seeking the permission of the department which the Code demands. And, Sir, though they are full of promises, that they will do this and that they will do that, they are very slow in the performance of their promises. We are full of sympathy and ready to encourage them as far as possible, but if they systematically break the rules of the Education Code which it is my duty to enforce what can we do?

REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Does Mr. Hodgson mean to say that when the managers can equip the schools and stand on their own legs, he comes to help them and that when they cannot, he does not help them in their need?

When they are all right, that is to say, in the matter of buildings, equipment and supply of teachers, there is no difficulty for them, though he wants to help them. Does he mean to say that?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not say anything like that.

PRESIDENT: The Department only requires conformity to the rules.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): If I may deal with one or two other points briefly, Sir, I may say that the next matter brought forward by the Rev. Father was the question of religious instruction in reorganised schools. I do not want to say more than one word. The position is that the Government in reply to a deputation that waited on the Dewan have undertaken to consider the matter and pass orders upon the representations that have been made to them. And in the meanwhile the Rev. Father may be glad to know that the heads of the several religious bodies that conduct schools in Travancore are being given the opportunity of expressing their views upon that question.

Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai rightly observed that 55·7 is the percentage of pupils that are undergoing primary school education. If you include unrecognised schools also the percentage is 61·1. He complained that we are not giving universal primary education. I will only say that we are gradually progressing year by year towards that goal; and I may also say that it is my belief that this consummation will be brought about in due time when local bodies are brought into being to relieve the department of the cost of maintaining them. There have been proposals for the establishment of such bodies from time to time and I believe it is the policy of the Government sooner or later to establish them. Government will be in a far better position then to enforce

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universal primary education. I would remind Mr. Parameswaran Pillai that Rome was not built in a day. For us it is a question of very great expenditure, the funds for which we have not got at present.

Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai also alluded to the pay of the Vernacular school teachers. I do not propose to speak on it now, as I expect I shall have an opportunity of speaking about it in the course of the next week.

Another point he referred to was how we are going to finance the University of Travancore when it comes into being. May I point out that after all it is the non-official members of the Council that demanded that a University should be established in Travancore?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know if Government do not feel the necessity for it at all?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not deny that. Over ten years ago, long before the people began to ask for it I myself suggested the idea. But I believe the present proposal for a University came from Mr. Velu Pillai at a meeting of this assembly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will not the Government carry out the proposal now?

PRESIDENT: Government have only appointed a committee and it is too soon to say what decision the Government will come to.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I am sorry to say that Mr. Hodgson has misunderstood my position. I did not say that we are launching upon this University scheme without sufficient funds and that the Government was wrong. What I was saying was that the Government have already appointed a committee to consider this question and I was asking the Government to so balance the budget as to adequately find funds to push on with progressive schemes when the time comes for the Government to take them up.

PRESIDENT: The Government have not committed themselves to any scheme for the establishment of a University.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Anyhow the fact remains that the suggestion has come from that side of the House itself. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai advocated the *immediate* establishment of a University.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): True, it has originated from this side of the House; but I want to know whether it was not accepted by the other side.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether that question is relevant to the discussion. The question at present is not whether that idea originated from this side or from that side of the House. I request a ruling from the Chair.

PRESIDENT: I think it is for the Chair to object to any particular statement. The statement has been made and the Chair *has not objected.*

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): One remark made by Mr. Krishna Aiyar, in dulcet tones, rather struck my attention. It was to the effect that schools and colleges of Travancore are adding to the number of unemployed consumers. Sir, it seems to me that our department is between two fires, or, to use a common expression is between the devil and the deep sea. (*Laughter.*) At the beginning of the year there is a clamour for admission to the schools and colleges; and if admission is not given indignation and protest meetings are held in this hall and elsewhere. On the other hand if we do admit them we are told by Mr. Krishna Aiyar that we are adding to the number of unemployed consumers.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): That is no charge against the department but against the system of education.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is against the system of education, which the department administers and is responsible for. I would only say, Sir, that I have considered very carefully indeed this question of whether we are justified in admitting so many pupils to the schools and colleges and giving them the education we do. I think, Sir, we *are* justified, although it is rather difficult to explain it. I feel that it is good mentally and morally for every pupil to undergo each stage of education it is possible for him to reach, whether it is the vernacular primary stage or that of the vernacular middle schools, which Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai wishes to abolish, or of the English Schools. I feel all the more that now that we have got an electorate by which the majority of this House is elected; we do not want people to be merely literate to be able only to read and write; we want them to be able to discriminate; we want them to take an intelligent interest in the questions of the day and to be able to form a judgment on what is said to them by the members of this Council when they meet their constituency and to distinguish which is the right and which is the wrong candidate. I think, Sir, we are justified in giving education to all who demand it.

There are several other points which, as I said at the beginning, I want to refer to; but there is very little time; and as I think several of them will recur in the course of next week, I will not speak on them now.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, in the course of the discussions yesterday and to-day, it was pointed out by some of the members on the other side that one of the sources of augmenting the resources of the State was the development of the forests.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): We cannot hear him.

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: If the House has no objection, I will ask him to come to the front and make his speech.

(Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai came nearer to the non-official members and spoke.)

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): While thanking my friends for the several suggestions made, I must inform the House that any impression that our forests can be made to yield still further increased revenue is erroneous. I have been in charge of almost all the divisions of the State and I am in a position to know exactly where we stand. A public announcement like this from me will rather be a disappointment but there is no use mincing matters and hiding facts.

In the first place, Sir, the fundamental basis on which forestry rests is the conservation of the forests, so that a sustained yield may be ensured and the requirements of the present and future generations met. The realisation of revenue is only a secondary consideration. Indeed all foresters agree that considerations of revenue should not interfere with the management of forests if its perpetuity and sustained yield are to be maintained. It was want of adherence to this principle that has brought ruination to several forests. After years of uncontrolled lumbering, America is realising its past folly now and they are going in for extensive and costly methods for regenerating their forests and preserving what little is left. Not far from us is also the example of the Cochin State which went in for a costly tramway to exploit its forest, which has practically ruined it and which in a way is lying idle for want of sufficient work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I am one of those persons who spoke about the forests. I did not mean that there should be indiscriminate felling of trees. I want to make revenue from forest consistent with conservation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am coming to that. To still further bring home to the House the fallacy of this demand for increased revenue, I would crave permission to mention a few facts relating to our own State which will convince the House that the abnormal revenue obtained in certain years, during the last few years, has been achieved by methods opposed to the principles of forestry or by makeshifts which bore no mark of permanency or continuity. During the time of Mr. Bourdillon, the gross revenue of the department ranged between Rs. 6 and Rs. 9 lakhs and the expenditure averaged between Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 lakhs giving annually a net average revenue of about Rs. 2½ to Rs. 3½ lakhs. When Mr. Bourdillion was succeeded by Mr. Rama Rao, he restricted the felling of royal trees from inside the reserve but let into the market a larger quantity of these timbers felled from outside the reserves while junglewood also was introduced into the market in equally large quantities. The revenue during his time went up to about Rs. 12 lakhs annually and the expenditure also rose correspondingly. Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar's administration was marked by still

higher flights in the matter of revenue and the gross income of the department went up to Rs. 16 lakhs, the maximum ever reached. To reduce the expenditure and to increase the net revenue, he also introduced the system of extensive coupe sales. I believe the House is already aware of the disastrous results that followed in the wake and from the entanglements of which the department has not yet recovered. The natural consequence of such rapid inflation of revenue is a corresponding fall in subsequent years and the revenue of the department again fell to Rs. 12 lakhs. Sleeper supply to the railway company was therefore undertaken on an extensive scale and the revenue again went up to Rs. 15¼ lakhs last year, and we are feeling the effect of this again this year. Though the sleeper supply brought us an immediate return, it has left behind an enormous quantity of resultant materials which would take a long time to be disposed of.

It will be evident from what has been stated that abnormal increase in revenue can be achieved only by extensive sales of timber or of big timber coupes regardless of the principles of sylviculture or forest conservancy, and nothing can be more suicidal to the well-being of our forests than those erratic methods of inflating the revenue.

In the conference of forest officers, we have given to the matter of improving our revenue careful consideration; and one and all of us have come to the conclusion that Rs. 12 lakhs annually can be the maximum that can be expected from our forests; and if we exceed this amount, we would be trenching upon the capital wealth of the State forests which we are bound in conscience to preserve undiminished for the benefit of the future generations.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai aware that in Mysore they have always been realising double the amount of the annual expenditure from the Forest Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May be. But there is nothing to show how they stand. We are speaking only with reference to our forests.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai tell me whether in fixing the maximum revenue the conference fixed also the expenditure?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Expenditure will be a varying item.

I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to enlighten the House on another point about which also there is some misconception, *viz.*, the development of minor forest produce to augment the revenue of the department.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, louder please.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As regards this, I have to say that the popular idea that there is untold wealth latent in our forests is only a matter of conjecture. I have

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

some acquaintance with the forests of the State and I must confess that I am rather pessimistic in this view. A great portion of the forest revenue under this head in the Madras Presidency is made up of revenue under grazing, fuel, fodder grass, etc., but here in Travancore we allow free grazing to Travancore cattle and cannot find a sale for any fodder grass. Fuel is also abundant in private lands in many of the taluks of the State. Our revenue is therefore mainly dependent on timber and if more revenue is to be realised, it must necessarily mean the felling of more trees and greater output of timber into the market, and a further crippling of our resources that ought in fairness to be conserved for the sake of our successors.

Perhaps the question may be asked why the department has not utilised its other minor forest products, why we have not investigated their utility and turned them into commercial account and created demands for them, why we have not introduced labour-saving machines and up-to-date appliances to reduce the cost of exploitation. To the credit of those that held the reins of the department hitherto it must be said that very earnest attempts were made in these directions, but experience has shown that they were not quite suited to our country. We got down a traction engine and accessories for the haulage of timber but it was found from experience that transport by cart was cheaper and less troublesome while the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the tractor was prohibitively high. The engine, after lying idle for several years, has now been transferred to the P. W. D. We also introduced a sawmill but that also proved equally a failure and had to be disposed of later.

The leases of the oil seeds and *nux vomica* granted to large capitalists have shown us where the lessees have landed themselves in spite of their command of money and large resource. The Hind Candle Works Company which took up the lease of *vateria indica* and other oil seeds have not collected and removed from the forests a rupee worth of this stuff though they have paid us since their contract over Rs. 40,500. The Pioneer Alkali Works which took up the lease of *nux vomica* fared equally badly and have not collected so far one chackram worth of the produce from our forests though we have realised from them Rs. 1,500 or more. Under the term minor forest produce is included a variety of produce some of which occur only in very small quantities and that too scattered over the whole area. Their cost of collection and consumption is beset with considerable difficulty and this is one of the handicaps for development. I may, however, assure the House that the department is making every earnest attempt possible to develop the revenue from this source. I was engaged in 1096 as Utilisation Officer for about six months, when I investigated the possibility of utilising the enormous growth of *eeta* occurring in the Northern Division for the manufacture of paper pulp. The result of the investigation showed that annually about 19,000 tons of *eeta* could be cut without depleting the forest and this was

sufficient to yield 8,000 tons of pulp. But on account of the high cost involved in the setting up of a pulp mill and the low price at which German and American paper was being dumped into the Indian market the scheme has to be taken up cautiously. But, Mr. Cox of Messrs. Brunton and Sons of Cochin who has invented a machine to use the *eeta* for making match boxes and matches, attracted by the data made available as a result of the investigation, came forward with an application for the lease to him of the *eeta* and the negotiations have now been completed by which a minimum amount of nearly Rs. 10,000 is assured to Government for the first ten years and with prospect of further increase amounting to several thousands beyond this period.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I wish to know from the Conservator whether lemon grass is growing largely in the reserves and whether the department is deriving any benefit out of it.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is found here and there; but it is difficult to work it on a commercial scale. When the lease for lemon grass was put up to auction in the Northern Division, nobody came forward from Mr. Khadir Pillai's taluk to bid.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I myself purchase lemon grass oil for Rs. 10 lakhs every year.

PRESIDENT: You purchase oil, and not grass. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is however a small area of about 30 ares near the plantation at Malayattur encroached upon and cultivated unauthorisedly. When the lease of this area was auctioned last year it only fetched Rs. 20.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether the area in which the *eeta* grass is growing is fit for agricultural purposes.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. It is absolutely unfit for agricultural purposes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it been tried?

PRESIDENT: It is on the slopes of the tributaries of the Periyar river and therefore cannot be used for cultivation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From what has been stated, I hope it will be conceded that the Forest Department should not be counted as one with a guaranteed revenue every year. The realisation of revenue here depends on several factors. With a dull and erratic market, with little or no local demand for timber, with the abundance of fuel and fodder all over the country, with free grazing permitted everywhere, with competition of private timber from different centres, we should consider ourselves fortunate if we can secure perpetually an yearly revenue of Rs. 12 lakhs.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പച്ചിലവളവും കിട്ടാതെ ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കൺസർവേറററക്കു അറിയാമോ?

[Mr. K. George.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. Kumara Pillai is probably ignorant of the notice recently published in the Gazette whereby by paying a seigniorage of four chackrams a cart-load of green leaves can be removed from the reserved forests. Free grazing is allowed to Travancore cattle.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): സംഗതിവശാൽ ഗസററിൽ ആ പരസ്യം ആദ്യമായി കണ്ടതു ഞാനാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കാൎക്കു വലിയ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എന്തെന്നാൽ കല്കുളത്തുള്ള ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരന് ഫാറസ്റ്റുറേയിഞ്ചാഫീസ്സിലേക്കു പത്തുനാഴിക നടന്നുപോകണം. പാസ്സിനായി അവിടെ ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ റേയിഞ്ചാഫീസ്സർ സൎക്കീട്ടാണെന്നും വരാം. വനങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് ആൎക്കും ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതെ അഴുകിപ്പോകുന്ന ഒരു സാധനമാണ് പച്ചിലവളം. അതു വെറുതെ കൊടുക്കണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മതിയായ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The question of the reduction of tariff rates was also referred to in the discussions. Tariff rates are only a standard for us to go by in assessing the value of timber sold. The P. W. D., *Panivagai* and other departments have to be supplied with timber and they have also the right of selection. We want some standard rates to fix the value of timber and it is chiefly for this purpose the tariff rate is adopted. In the case of the general public, unless they select and purchase timber in the depots when they also have to pay tariff rates, they are eligible to bid for timber in the monthly auctions when the price to be paid will be regulated by the quality of timber and by the general condition of the timber market. After all, a greater portion of the timber—especially royalties—finds its way ultimately outside the State and any reduction in the tariff rates would only benefit the outside merchants.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, if I were to reply at length to all the points raised in the course of the discussions yesterday and to-day, it might take not half an hour, not one hour, but several hours to finish my speech. I do not therefore wish to give any lengthy answer. I propose to confine myself to the general criticisms that have been made about the budget.

Before I proceed further, I wish to refer to the discussion that has taken place about the reference in my opening speech to the work of the Finance Committee—rather the joint labours of the Finance Committee and the Government. I am not oblivious of the fact that the scope of the Finance Committee is limited by the G. O. I do not mean to imply that it was otherwise. All that I meant by that reference was that the Finance Committee did its part as far as it was permitted to do in the G. O. and went through the budget along with the Government item by item. As regards the right of the Finance Committee to

make suggestions, the non-official members were not debarred from making suggestions, and in fact, they made suggestions and Government attached great weight to such suggestions.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Were any cuts made according to their suggestions?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not know if I would be justified in speaking here about the details of the proceedings of the meetings of the Finance Committee.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it a secret?

PRESIDENT: In the first place, whether the members of the Finance Committee themselves would be willing to have the proceedings of the committee published is not known. The matter is one which requires consideration.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are the Government aware that the proceedings of the Finance Committee are published elsewhere?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I shall first refer to the assertion made by several members that my reading of our present financial position is too optimistic, that in point of fact the financial outlook is a gloomy one, nay that we are even on the verge of absolute bankruptcy. I believe it was Mr. Madhava Variar who said that we have already reached or are about to reach the brink of a financial abyss. Sir, I do not deny my friends their right to hold to their very pessimistic and very dismal opinion. I believe it is more a matter of temperament. I daresay I may be called too optimistic; but so far as figures go, my optimism has *certainly* been justified by actual results.

First, let me refer to our assets and liabilities. It is no doubt true that the statement of assets and liabilities given on page 7 of the *Preliminary Budget* does not represent all our assets or all our liabilities, but contains only such of them as have a balance now on the financial books of the State; but in my last year's speech I gave a true statement of our assets and liabilities which were that year—assets, Rs. 269 lakhs and liabilities Rs. 214 lakhs. The items of liabilities and assets which are not included in the statement are quite well known and anybody may work them without much difficulty. According to the financial statement given on page 7, the assets of the State at the end of the current year amount to Rs. 176 lakhs. Out of this, the depreciated investments in the Government of India 3½ and 3 per cent. securities amount to Rs. 50 lakhs, and these, if valued at the current market rates, would amount to Rs. 31 lakhs. A deduction of Rs. 19 lakhs will have therefore to be made. We should, however, add to our assets the cost of the two capital works which have been met

[Mr. K. George.]

from Government revenues, together amounting to Rs. 135 lakhs. Altogether the total assets would amount to Rs. 292 lakhs. The total of liabilities as per statement is Rs. 105·7 lakhs. To this must be added the railway debt of Rs. 133½ lakhs, thus resulting in a total liability of Rs. 239 lakhs. As regards the railway and debenture loan liabilities, I have already stated that they are fully covered by the sinking funds provided for them. The excess of assets over liabilities is thus Rs. 53 lakhs. I hope I have laid to rest the charge that our position regarding assets and liabilities is an insecure one.

Then the only occasion for anxiety will be if year after year we are to spend in excess of our income. That we do keep within our income, members very well know. Whether it is by accident or as a deliberate policy it does not matter. It is only the fact with which we are at present concerned. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai said that somehow or other we make a surplus every year. I am curious to know how a surplus can come somehow or other—as if it were a mere working of an irresponsible fate.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagappalli*): What I mean is that surplus can be obtained by a manipulation of figures.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): But the surplus is an actual fact and our treasury balance has increased.

Let Mr. Padmanabha Pillai or any of us try to get a surplus in our domestic finances somehow or other. In Mr. Micawber's words, income £ 1, expenditure 19 sh. 11 d., result happiness and peace of mind; income £ 1, expenditure £ 1-1 d.—result misery and a debtor's prison. I suppose we have to deliberately make up our mind to spend only 19 s. 11 d. when our income is £ 1 in order to get a surplus of 1 d.; and the same is the case with Government.

Sir, it has again been stated that our financial policy is unsound because we are building on unstable sources of revenue. So far as I know, the only unstable sources of revenue are the sale proceeds of Government waste lands and the abkari revenue. Sir, I admit that, ultimately, at some distant future date, the former will totally disappear. As regards the latter, unless absolute prohibition is practicable, it will not be reasonable to suppose that the revenue will be extinguished. No financier can or need forecast several years ahead when he prepares his budget. Any such forecast if made will, I think, be practically valueless. All that he is called upon to do is to see that year by year a sound financial policy is maintained. I claim that this is being done in the State.

My friend Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai wanted us to look far ahead and abandon what he calls the policy of merely balancing the budget. His remarks would have had point if we had stinted expenditure in the Development Departments in recent years. First of all, taking education, we had been spending in 1088 only Rs. 12·8 lakhs. Next year

we are going to spend Rs. 37 lakhs. Under Agriculture and Fisheries, in 1088 we were spending only Rs. 64,000. We are now spending more than Rs. 2 lakhs. Under Industries also, the expenditure has gone very high. The department was started only in 1092. So, I will take the figures for 1093. In that year, the expenditure was Rs. 22,000. For the coming year, the expenditure proposed on Industries is Rs. 1,66,000. Again, we started the Co-operative Department with Rs. 3,000 in 1091 and now we are going to spend Rs. 31,000 on it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Has the Registrar of Co-operative Societies made any recommendation for appointing seven additional inspectors and has the recommendation been vetoed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The information can be gathered from the budget.

We have not stinted expenditure on the Development Departments. Therefore there is not much point in saying that Government have been merely balancing the budget.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether there has been a considerable reduction in the allotment of the P. W. D?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have got P. W. D. figures as well. I forgot to refer to them. We had some curtailments in the years 1096 and 1097. In 1093, the expenditure on P. W. D. and Irrigation was only Rs. 22 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know what it was in 1088?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures. The expenditure was very large, but then the department was better manned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Does he consider that the department is at present undermanned in point of efficiency?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that. The department itself should say that. What I mean to say is that the allotment was reduced under certain circumstances over which we had no control; but at the same time I should point out that, to a great extent, the grant has been restored.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether it is good finance to cut down the expenditure on public works without proportionately reducing the establishment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They are past things. I think there is nothing gained by answering the question. That was several years ago.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): But is it not a fact that the figure went up to Rs. 33 lakhs and was again cut down to Rs. 23 lakhs?

[Mr. K. George.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In 1096 the expenditure was Rs. 30¾ lakhs; in 1097, it was Rs. 33 lakhs; in 1098, it is Rs. 27 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes. Today, for 1099?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Rs. 28¼ lakhs.

PRESIDENT: It must also be remembered that we are economising on buildings.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I omit Palace and Maramat, but take into account the outlay on minor irrigation works.

I recognise the fact that, as Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai said, there are schemes involving expenditure of money awaiting us. He has reminded us that ultimately we may have to abandon the abkari revenue and that we shall in future be obliged to increase the expenditure on education. For instance, we shall have to make primary education compulsory and increase the pay of the primary schoolmaster. We may also have to undertake the expenditure required for starting a University; and we may have besides to incur more expenditure on the Public Works Department, on medical relief, and so on. I recognise all that. But my answer is that, in the first place, we cannot forecast so far ahead. Secondly, I was not able to find among the suggestions made in this House any constructive proposals of which the Government could take advantage. Only one or two were made and these would not go far enough. I would refer to them later on.

One of the criticisms made was that our budget estimates of the current year have been falsified by the actual results. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar has pointed out that, in regard to certain items, his original forecast proved truer than mine. But Mr. Krishna Aiyar has failed to mention to the House that his forecast proved true only in a single case *viz.*, Forest.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Two.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Under Land Revenue, sale of Government lands, he said he would estimate only Rs. 1,20,000 but we are going to get Rs. 3½ lakhs, although in this respect I confess I too was somewhat over-sanguine. Under Income Tax, he wanted to put down a modest figure of Rs. 3 lakhs, but the actuals are expected to be Rs. 4,35,000, which is much nearer my estimate than his.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what the refund is expected to be?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The above amount is exclusive of refund. Again, under Customs,

Mr. Krishna Aiyar wanted to reduce Rs. 2 lakhs and under Stamps and Registration another Rs. 2 lakhs. In all these cases, my estimates have been realised and in some cases even exceeded. On the whole, Mr. Krishna Aiyar wanted to estimate for a reduced income by about Rs. 10 lakhs or Rs. 15 lakhs. The House can decide if it would have been wise to accept his suggestions last year.

More than one member has repeated that we have been saved this year merely by the salt duty. Sir, in my first speech, I have quite clearly explained that this is not so. Granting that the salt duty was not raised, what would have been our figures? Our revenue would have been Rs. 192¼ lakhs. Our estimate of expenditure under fixed charges was Rs. 2¼ lakhs in excess of actual requirements. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar suggested that this excess provision must have been made deliberately or by mistake, and he hoped that it was only the latter and not the former. Some other members also said that this was done with a set purpose. Sir, the reason why we had to take the average pay of posts for our estimates of salaries and establishment, I explained in the very first paragraph of my last year's budget speech. It was due to the fact that, when the budgets were being framed, the revision of salaries was proceeding and the exact amount of salary which each individual would receive in the new scale was not then ascertainable. Omitting Rs. 2¼ lakhs out of the estimated expenditure, our expenditure would have been Rs. 191½ lakhs. Thus even granting that no lapses or surrenders had taken place in any department, the year 1098 would still have closed with a surplus of Rs. ¾ lakh which is just the amount anticipated in our original budget. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, Mr. Panjikaran and, I think, a few others referred to the large surrender by the P. W. D. I may point out to them that the department expects to spend almost the whole of its allotment made for *ordinary* works and that the surrender is mainly in the expenditure on the construction of a Palace at Delhi.

My friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai asked why the amount of Rs. 3 lakhs paid in connection with the Cochin Harbour Scheme has been debited to 'Advances'. I regret I am not in a position to make a full statement on this subject as the correspondence is still in the confidential stage. The amount is debited to 'Advance' now because it is treated for the present as a loan to the Harbour authorities.

As regards the estimates of the coming year, one or two members were again of opinion that we have pitched up the revenue. Mr. Krishna Aiyar would have us reduce the estimates under income tax, sale of Government lands and salt. I regret I cannot accept his figures. Judging from past experience, I am sure his estimates would not turn out correct and feel that it would be safer to adopt the Government's figures.

My friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai has asked how we have estimated Rs. 7 lakhs excess receipts under salt revenue for six and a half months while we expect to receive Rs. 4¾ lakhs only for five and a half months this year. Sir, when the departmental estimate was sent up

[President.]

for that figure, the same disparity struck me; but it was found out that the estimate is not based mainly on an arithmetical proportion but on the basis of consumption, as could be expected from past experience. It was found that the consumption of salt is proportionately more in the first half of the year than in the second half, as the merchants would have stored up quantities of salt.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Certainly they would not.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Krishna Aiyar referred to the mystery still surrounding the 58 new schemes in the budget. Sir, I have already explained in the memorandum accompanying the budget that we have merged these items into the budget estimates in order to avoid asking for a lump sum grant in this Council. The foot-notes in the printed budget would in most cases explain what the schemes are. I need not say more on that point.

Under new possible sources of revenue, I believe it was my friend Mr. Madhava Variar who referred to the possibility of cancelling the system of refunding the tea duty to the British Government. That refund is made on account of the tea from Travancore that is exported through the British Indian ports.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Are we not realising the duty here in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes, we are.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Not at the ports?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Even in respect of the tea that is exported through the British Indian ports, we realise the full duty. But we refund one-half of the duty that is levied here on such tea. In respect of tea exported through Travancore ports, the full duty is ours and nobody can have any share of it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know why this refund is being made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The arrangement was made some years ago. If the tea is assessed again with duty in the British Indian ports, the tea companies would have to pay double duty. To protect the companies against heavy loss, it was found necessary to grant the exemption.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Was it not originally given by this Government as a sort of contribution to the war fund?

PRESIDENT: If I may intervene in the debate, I will tell the House that the real object of the arrangement is to protect the local tea industry and to see that it is not handicapped in the competition from producers of the same article elsewhere. If you subject the same article to a double

duty, then that industry is handicapped to that extent and cannot compete fairly in the world's markets. The refund is made solely in the interests of the tea industry of the State; and, as Mr. George said, the arrangement was made some years ago.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): May I know whether there are not facilities for exporting tea through the Travancore ports themselves?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The planters must avail themselves of the facilities.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether it is not possible for Government to so manage that planters will export tea through our ports and not take them to the British Indian ports and thereby force us to refund half of the duty realised?

PRESIDENT: Government cannot deflect the course of trade.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Trade goes along the natural lines.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not possible to exempt Travancore tea from payment of duty in British India by the extension of some of the provisions of the Interportal Trade Convention so long as it is in force?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot answer that question off-hand as it is a big matter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am only suggesting that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Madhava Variar also referred to the possibility of levying duty on rubber. The objection to such a proposal is obvious. The rubber trade was till very recently in a state of collapse. The price of rubber is but just coming up; and I must say that, if a duty is levied, it will hit the trade very hard and possibly prejudice its revival. It must also be remembered that a large portion of the raw rubber that is exported from Travancore belongs to Travancoreans and not to well-to-do foreign capitalists as is perhaps imagined.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai thinks it a financial blunder to have reduced the provision for sinking funds. Sir, I would have been the last person to suggest a reduction under this head if it were not proved beyond doubt that the reduction was absolutely justifiable. It is purely a question of mathematics. The increase in our liability necessitated an enquiry into the adequacy of our provision for sinking funds. When money is earning 5 per cent. interest generally, no one will suggest that to pay the sinking funds only 3½ per cent. is correct. So we calculated on a 5 per cent. basis. The investments already made, if continued at the same rate of interest, will amount to about Rs. 86 lakhs in 1945. The amount to be invested per annum at 5 per cent. compound interest to obtain the remaining Rs. 47 lakhs and odd at the end of 22 years is only about Rs. 1,17,000; but we have provided Rs. 1,25,000.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether that makes provision for the possible increase of the capital liability in future years?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have already said in my opening speech that, if the liability is increased, we shall have to make increased provision. At present we have provided for the present liability.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): In view of the fact that about Rs. 13 lakhs was the increase that was caused in one year, *viz.*, 1097, supposing the capital liability increases at that rate in a particular year, without making previous provision, will it be possible to meet such contingencies from the revenue of the year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe so. That will not be difficult, because we have reduced Rs. 75,000. To restore that will not be difficult. If further provision is necessary, we shall have to make it.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Why is it reduced?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is absolutely unnecessary to provide more, because, by actual mathematical calculations, we found that Rs. 1,25,000 will be quite ample.

The provision made for leave allowances has been criticised by some members. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said it must be omitted and Mr. Madhava Variar made the curious suggestion that it should be invested in sinking funds.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How is it curious?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I shall explain. Sir, the provision we have made for leave allowances is, I expect, somewhat in excess. But what is the good of omitting it altogether or what is the harm in retaining it? No one is going to get leave allowances except to the extent to which he is entitled under the Service Regulations. The reason for the provision I have already stated in my opening speech. It is made because we must obtain from the Council a grant for the actual requirements of the coming year. Since payment of leave allowances is governed by specific rules, even if the provision made is somewhat excessive, no one is going to benefit by it. The excess will merely lapse, it not being the Government's intention to draw upon it for any other purpose. What advantage we shall have in transferring the provision for leave allowances to sinking funds which do not require it, I am at a loss to know. And therefore I felt it was somewhat curious.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there is any necessity for providing a larger percentage

of leave allowances in case the Financial Secretary himself expects a considerable portion of it would lapse?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have stated already that it is a tentative arrangement. We had no time to work out the average expenditure on leave allowances and so we follow the rates that have been adopted in Madras. But, however, it is only tentative and we can very well reduce it if necessary. Leave can be given only under certain rules. The existence of a provision does not at all affect the matter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If it is unnecessary, why should you provide for it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I may say that, if I wanted merely to show a surplus, I could have very well omitted the provision for leave allowances and shown a surplus of Rs 4¼ lakhs instead of Rs. 2 lakhs.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): No. You can have omitted it and provided for some other useful and spending departments.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): All the requirements of the spending departments have been provided for.

Another matter which has come in for consideration and criticism is our present position regarding our railways. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai has again raised the question as to why we cannot pay off the debentures from our sinking funds. I am making a full statement on the question in reply to one of his interpellations in this session of the Council; but I shall anticipate that. The fact is that under what is known as the Travancore Contract which was executed between the Secretary of State (on behalf of the British Government and ourselves) and the South Indian Railway Company, we cannot claim to repay the amount of capital raised for the extension until the principal contract would fall due, *i. e.*, in 1945. We may, of course, buy some of these debentures although with some difficulty and in driblets; but it will amount only to an investment of the sinking fund in railway bonds instead of in Government of India securities. When the debentures fall due for payment, we shall have either to receive back the money or agree to renew it for a further period as would be decided by the Secretary of State. If the former course is adopted, we shall have again to look out for fresh investments for our money; and to get that money back, we may perhaps have to incur loss on account of exchange. If on the other hand the bonds are renewed, there are several disadvantages. The renewals are made for short periods and the rate of interest will fluctuate and usually the interest for money in the London market is less than the interest in India. Here our money is in long term 6 and 5 per cent. loans and we shall not suffer from a fluctuation of interest. Again, we shall have to undergo the risk of an adverse exchange to transfer the interest from England to India.

[Mr. K. George.]

I hope Mr. Padmanabha Pillai will be satisfied with this explanation. As regards the question why we did not take advantage of the favourable exchange of 1917, I must admit that I did not and, even now, do not know the quotation for these railway bonds. But I must say that I asked the Railway Company for the information and they were not in a position to supply the information either.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether it is not the duty of the Financial Secretary to acquaint himself with the information?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Apart from the question of duty, I might inform the member that I did refer the question to the Agent of the South Indian Railway Company and he has wired to say that he is unable to say anything because he does not know. That information can be had only if you get down the financial papers; and the Financial Secretary has not thought it worth while to go in for railway bonds instead of the Government of India pro-notes and therefore he did not make any such attempt. Besides, what would have been the result? We would have in the first place difficulties to purchase the bonds and until we purchased, the money would have been idle or only earning nominal interest; secondly when the bonds matured we would have had to continue the investment in London at lower rates of interest or accepted payment of the amount and re-transferred it at the present rates of exchange, losing thereby all that we would have gained by the favourable exchange.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): When the value of the rate was high, could not the information be got from the Secretary of State for India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It might possibly have been obtained; but by the time information came, the price would still further have fluctuated.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the maximum time that would be required for cabling to him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): During the war it was difficult to send direct cables.

PRESIDENT: You cannot cable direct.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Padmanabha Pillai asked why rolling stock was not purchased out of depreciation funds. So fas as I am aware, according to the system of railway accounts, railway companies meet the expenditure on ordinary repairs, renewals and replacements only from their revenue accounts and incur all expenditure on extensions, material improvements and new rolling stock out of capital. To my knowledge, no depreciation fund is provided.

Mr. Kochukunju Pillai and certain others stated that one reason for the railway loss is the increase in railway fares. I can contradict them in that. The passenger and goods traffic earnings have shown improvement year after year; but not proportionately to the increase in the fares. However, the raising of the fares has not contributed to any fall in the gross earnings.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can you give any figures?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have given the figures in the speech or perhaps it is in the memorandum.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it increase in the fares or profit?

PRESIDENT: Gross earnings.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Gross earnings have not been less. I have the figures.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Have you got information regarding the income derived from the various fares?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there not an appreciable reduction in the income derived from the second class fares?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. But it does not mean that the gross earnings are less.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That could have been made up elsewhere.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Mackie asked whether the Rs. 15½ lakhs paid was for new rolling stock obtained for the Travancore railway and if so, whether the Government knew if the rolling stock is used exclusively on our line. The amount represents the cost of the new rolling stock got exclusively for the Travancore section. As regards using it on our line, the Government are corresponding with the Railway authorities.

The expenditure on salaries has again come in for adverse comment. Sir, the subject was discussed threadbare on several occasions in this House and therefore I think it is not necessary for me to dwell at length on that subject. I would refer only to one aspect of the question. The total expenditure on salaries exclusive of leave allowances is Rs. 76½ lakhs. Out of this, Education alone consumes Rs. 23½ lakhs or about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure and the Judicial Department spends Rs. 9 lakhs. The reasons for the large expenditure under the former are well known. In 1088, our total expenditure on education was only Rs. 13 lakhs which itself showed an increase of Rs. 3 lakhs over the expenditure of 1087. The increase is due to the opening of more departmental schools and the revision of salaries of teachers, particularly of those

[Mr. K. George.]

in primary schools. I may also say that educational expenditure must always consist mainly of the pay of the teaching staff. Another reason why expenditure on salaries in the Education Department in this State is so large compared with British India and Mysore is that in those countries a large proportion of the expenditure is met by local boards and municipalities. Here the entire expenditure is met by Government. I refer to public schools only.

As regards expenditure on the administration of justice, it is due chiefly to the large volume of litigation in the country. Government are not desirous of keeping up the expenditure; but such expenditure is inevitable in the interests of the litigant public, and the increase in the complexity of litigation. The expenditure in other departments, excepting Agriculture and Industries, has not increased to any large extent in recent years. In the P. W. D., the expenditure is very much less than in previous years. The reorganisation of the Excise Department has brought in a saving of Rs. 38,000. In this connection, I would ask if it is reasonable to expect that, when the revenue increases, when new departments are created and old departments enlarged, the expenditure on establishment should go down.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know if Government have considered the recommendations of the Salaries Committee on the question of the retrenchment of offices.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was answered when we discussed the resolution moved by Mr. Kunjitomman. I said then that many of the proposals of the Salaries Committee were carried into effect.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether there was not a proposal to combine the offices of the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of any such proposal.

If we want to collect more revenue, if we want more schools, more hospitals, better equipped Agricultural and Industrial departments and so on, we should have to spend larger amounts on establishment.

In conclusion, I have to say only one word. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar asked what Government have done for the moral and material advancement of the masses. I cannot now describe at length all that the Government are doing in these directions. I shall confine myself to a few instances. We are spending considerably large amounts year after year on education. In the P. W. D., we are spending more on communications. We are extending medical relief by encouraging both the western and the Ayurvedic systems of medicine.

We are increasing the issue of agricultural loans and a scheme of industrial loans has been introduced. We are proposing to give substantial concessions to a State-aided Bank for Travancore. We are developing both the Agricultural and Industrial departments and increasing their usefulness to the people. Again, the co-operative movement is being pushed forward. These are some only of the useful activities of Government. Many more could be mentioned if I had time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I want to ask a question. Will the Government consider the desirability of having a financial year separate from the *Kollam* year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That cannot be answered off-hand. All I can say is that we have not yet considered the question.

The Council adjourned at 6-32 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. on the Monday following.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 6th August 1923.

(OFFICIAL REPORT).

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Work of Excise Sub-Inspectors.

50. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the amount of work done under each of the heads mentioned below, by the newly appointed Excise Sub-Inspectors for the ten months beginning from Chingam and ending with Edavam, 1098:

(*a*) the number of cases of illicit distillation detected by each Sub-Inspector;

(*b*) the number of house-searches conducted by them;

(*c*) the number of cases of illicit possession of toddy and arrack detected by them;

(*d*) the number of trees for tapping, numbered by each Sub-Inspector;

(*e*) the number of cases of contraband opium, ganja and tobacco, detected by them;

(*f*) the number of cases charged by the Inspectors out of those detected by the Sub-Inspectors; and

(*g*) the number of such cases which ended in conviction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) to (*g*) A statement* showing the work done by the Excise Sub-Inspectors from the 1st Tulam, 1098, the date of their appointment, to the close of Edavam, 1098, is laid on the table.

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* *Vide* Appendix I—pages 214 and 215.

House searches by Excise Officers.

51. Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a range-war statement giving information under the following heads:

(*a*) the number of house-searches conducted in 1096 and 1097 by the officers in the different grades of the Excise Department;

(*b*) the number of house-searches that were successful;

(*c*) the number of cases charged before Magistrates;

(*d*) the number of cases that ended in conviction; and

(*e*) the number of house-searches conducted under magisterial warrants?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A statement† furnishing the information is laid on the table.

Letter from Messrs. Ferris and Co.

52. Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the letter from Messrs. Ferris and Co., containing the insinuation that the head of a department asked for commission for articles purchased for the use of Government and referred to in the answer given to my interpellation asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 10th Vrischikam, 1098, was received either before or after the answer given to my interpellation No. 47 on the subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th Karkadakam, 1097?

(*b*) Have the Government sent a reply to the above letter to the firm?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The letter was received before the answer.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

Re-auction of Arrack and Toddy shops.

53. Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of shops, both arrack and toddy, in respect of which arrears of kist have not been paid from the 1st Tulam, 1098, till the end of Medam, 1098, and the number of such shops as were re-auctioned during the period?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are no such toddy or arrack shops.

Powers of Appointment of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools.

54. Mr. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total number of subordinates in the vernacular schools whose appointment is vested in the Inspector of Vernacular Schools;

† *Vide* Appendix II—page 216.

(b) (i) the number of those among them whose pay is above Rs. 15: and

(ii) the number whose pay is Rs. 15 or less;

(c) whether the Inspector of Vernacular Schools finds time to properly conduct the inspection work of the several schools, after attending to his work in connection with the appointment, transfer, leave, etc., of those subordinates;

(d) whether they do not consider it essential in the interests of the administrative efficiency of those officers to invest the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools with the power of appointment up to Rs. 15;

(e) whether the Inspector of Vernacular Schools has written to the Director of Public Instruction that this power must remain with him; and

(f) whether the Director of Public Instruction has addressed the Government on the subject?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) 5348.
(b) (i) 1440.
(ii) 3908.
(c) He says that he finds time.
(d) No.
(e) and (f) Yes.

Liquor Shops near Public Places.

55. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the number of toddy and arrack shops near public roads, markets, schools, and places of public worship throughout the State?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The statement* required by the member is laid on the table. It includes all toddy and arrack shops within a furlong of the above-mentioned places.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether they have cancelled the circular to the effect that toddy and arrack shops should not be located near public thoroughfares, markets, schools, places of public worship, etc.?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Sale of Foreign Liquor at Quilon.

56. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): (a) Did the Government sanction a special license for the vend of foreign liquors for the town of Quilon in 1096 on the distinct condition that liquors brought for sale under that license should be imported through the sea direct from foreign countries?

* *Vide* Appendix III—page 217

(b) To whom was this special license given?

(c) Was that license renewed in the name of the same individual in 1097, and if not, why?

(d) To whom is this license given in 1098?

(e) Is the original condition attached to this license insisted on and, if not, have Government authorised the Excise Commissioner to issue the special license without the condition?

(f) Did the Excise Commissioner, when he recommended the issue of this license in 1096, write to the Government that, if this condition was not attached, Government would lose customs duty? If so, why is the condition rescinded now?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*)

(a) An additional license for the vend of foreign liquors at Quilon was sanctioned in 1096 and it contained the condition referred to by the member.

(b) Messrs. Thomas Stephen and Sons, Quilon.

(c) The license was not renewed in the name of the above company as it did not apply for its renewal.

(d) Messrs. M. N. Govinda Pillai and Co.

(e) and (f) The condition mentioned by the member was not inserted in the renewed license as it was not then considered necessary.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to say why the incorporation of that condition was found unnecessary?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the interportal trade convention, the British Government have agreed to pay to this Government Bh. Rs. 40,000 annually, as long as the revenue derived by the latter Government from direct imports does not exceed Bh. Rs. 13,218. If the revenue of the Travancore Government under this head does not come up to the above amount, they will be losing annually to the extent of the difference between the revenue realised under this head and the maximum fixed under the Convention. Till 1095, for some years, our direct receipts on account of the port duties stood below Rs. 13,128 and hence the particular condition in question was inserted in the licenses issued in 1096 to enhance those receipts so as to approximate them to the maximum. Since 1096, however, as a result of the general increase of import duties, our collections from direct imports have gone above Rs. 13,218, and hence the further insistence of this condition in the license for 1097 was not considered necessary.

Promotion of Temperance.

57. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): With reference to the assurance given to this Council, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the promotion of temperance?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner has been asked to submit proposals to the Government before the close of the year 1098. His report has not yet been received.

Promotion of Temperance.

58. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to introduce the following measures in order to minimise, as far as possible, the drink habit and the annoyances arising therefrom to the public:

(*a*) to lay down a rule that no liquor shops should be opened within a distance of less than half a mile from temples, schools and public offices;

(*b*) to make the sale of liquor after 6 P. M. penal;

(*c*) to declare the sale of liquor to, or the purchase of liquor by, Government servants, penal;

(*d*) to rule that the sale of liquor shall not be permitted in shops in which other articles are kept for sale?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 57.

Resale of Liquor Shops.

59. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): (*a*) How many arrack and toddy shops were resold during this year?

(*b*) What was the loss or gain in each case on account of such resale?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) 37 arrack and 36 toddy shops.

(*b*) A statement * containing the information is laid on the table. It may be noted that losses due to resales are recoverable from the original purchasers, and the usual steps will, no doubt, be taken to recover these losses as far as possible.

Resale of Liquor Shops.

60. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of toddy and arrack shops resold during 1098, up to the end of Mithunam?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 59 by Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.

Import of Salt.

61. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantities of

* *Vide* Appendix IV—pages 218 and 219.

Bombay, Tinnevelly and Tuticorin salt imported into Travancore in 1096 and 1097 respectively, and the quantities for which contract was given in 1098 ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In regard to the first part of the question, the member is referred to pages 26 and 30 of the Administration Reports for 1096 and 1097 respectively. The quantities for which contract was given in 1098 are shown below:—

Bombay salt	...	3,20,000 maunds.
Tuticorin or Tinnevelly salt	...	3,50,000 maunds.

High Court Judges on Vacation Duty.

62. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the circuit programme of Vacation Judges of the High Court for 1097 and 1098 and the amounts drawn by them as travelling allowance ?

(*b*) Will it not result in great saving if the Vacation Judges are asked to inspect court after court in order of nearness to one another instead of being allowed to proceed from one court to a distant court leaving out the adjacent courts ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the Judicial sheets of the Government Gazette, pages 89 and 485, dated the 21st March, 1922, and the 27th February, 1923 respectively, in regard to circuit programmes. A statement † of travelling allowances drawn is laid on the table.

(*b*) The programme of inspection of particular courts is fixed with reference to their previous inspections, the object being the inspection of all the courts, at least once in three years. The order of nearness cannot always be adhered to.

Appointment of K. V. Viraraghavachari in the High Court.

63. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (1) Did the Chief Justice appoint one K. V. Viraraghavachari on Rs. 45 in the High Court after the reorganisation ?

(2) What is his qualification and what was his pay before the reorganisation ?

(3) Is it a fact that the Chief Justice recommended him for a place on Rs. 45 at the time of the reorganisation and that that recommendation was not approved by Government ?

(4) Is it a fact that he was subsequently appointed as the head clerk of a Munsiff's Court on Rs. 35 and taken back to the High Court on Rs. 45 ?

(5) How long after the date of the reorganisation was this appointment made ?

(6) Is it a fact that the Chief Justice kept this place vacant from the time of the reorganisation till the date of appointment of Viraraghavachari to the same ?

† *Vide* Appendix V—page 220.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) Yes.

(2) He has passed the Lower Secondary Examination and the Sheristadar's test. His pay before the reorganisation was Rs. 35 *plus* Rs. 4, scarcity allowance.

(3) Yes. The recommendation was for the grant of an advance increment which was not approved by Government.

(4) and (5) Yes. His pay as head clerk, Munsiff's Court, was Rs. 45 and not Rs 35, and he was taken back to the High Court 1 month and 24 days after the reorganisation on Rs. 45 in the scale of Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.

(6) The answer is in the affirmative.

Dispersal of a Temperance Meeting.

64. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government aware of the fact that an Excise Inspector by name Mr. Satyavagisvara Aiyar tried, with the help of the local Police, to disperse a temperance meeting held at the Cape?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made any enquiries in the matter afterwards?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They have not made any enquiries.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do they propose to make any enquiries?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They will do so if the member desires.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

Suppression of Temperance Movement.

65. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner has been sending confidential orders to his subordinate officers to see that the temperance movement is put down throughout the State?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Chemical Analysis of Home Salt.

66. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the salt manufactured in the local *alloms* was chemically examined during the three years from 1095, and, if so, how often, by whom, and where;

(*b*) whether there was a chemical laboratory in the salt factories and whether it still exists; and

(*c*) if it still exists, whether it is being made use of for the purpose for which it is intended and whether there is anybody in the factories qualified to conduct chemical analysis of the salt manufactured in the *alloms*?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) In 1097, two samples of inferior salt manufactured in the Srimulagopalanathan *allom* were sent to the Chemical Examiner to Government for examination and were examined by him, and one sample was condemned.

(*b*) and (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Technical Knowledge of Officers in Salt Factories.

67. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any of the officers now in the Salt Factories have any technical knowledge or training in salt manufacture, and, if so, the names of such officers?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The officers engaged in the salt factories have not been trained technically in salt manufacture but they have obtained the necessary knowledge by experience.

Loss of Salt to Mr. Karayalar.

68. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state who was responsible for the loss of salt belonging to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar during the recent floods?

(*b*) What action, if any, has been taken by Government to fix the responsibility in this matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The cyclone was responsible.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

69. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the salt that was washed away by the cyclone was in the ridges for nine months instead of being removed, until Mr. Karayalar and several other licensees had petitioned to Government that the salt should be removed, that the Excise Commissioner condemned the salt as being unfit for consumption and that Government ultimately—

PRESIDENT: You are making a speech instead of asking a question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether it is a fact that the salt washed away was on the ridges for nine months instead of being removed to the platforms as is usually done—

PRESIDENT: You may put your questions one by one.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the salt washed away was on the ridges for nine months instead of being removed to the platform?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the salt was allowed to remain there though Mr. Karayalar and several other licensees frequently applied to Government for the removal thereof?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I must claim notice.

Mr. A HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the Excise Commissioner condemned the salt as unfit for human consumption?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I must again claim notice.

Appendix I.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 50.**

Statement showing the amount of work done by the Excise Sub-Inspectors from the 1st Tulam, 1098 to the 1st Mithunam, 1098.

Name of Sub-Inspector.	Number of cases of illicit distillation.	Number of house-searches.	Number of cases of illicit possession of arrack and toddy detected.	Number of trees marked for tapping.	Number of cases of contraband opium, ganja and tobacco.	Number of cases charged.	Number of cases convicted.
R. Gopala Aiyar ...	...	...	5	1,306	...	5	5
A. Krishna Pillai ...	...	...	2	720	...	2	...
T. Ramaswamy Aiyangar ...	...	...	3	...	...	2	...
P. V. Shroffe ...	...	...	11	705	...	11	10
N. A. Thompson ...	...	5	1	1,280	...	1	...
B. Mohideen Khan. ...	3	7	2	1,382	...	5	4
P. Paramu Nadar ...	1	9	8	916	...	9	9
D. Gomatinayakam Pillai ...	3	5	5	75	...	7	7
R. Gopalan Nair ...	1	2	5	135	...	4	3
F. E. Noranho ...	1	3	4	434	...	2	2
V. Solomon ...	...	2	2	1,317	...	2	2
T. M. Vasudevan Pillai ...	...	4	1	568	5	3	3
C. Ramakrishna Pillai ...	1	3	...	332	1	2	2
N. Balakrishna Pillai ...	1	1	...	380	1	1	1
C. Nilakanda Pillai ...	...	3	...	987	2	2	2
V. Nilakandan Nair ...	...	2	2	1,095	...	1	1
Shaik Mohideen (Veliyam) ...	1	4	2	630	...	2	2
S. Sankaranarayana Pillai ...	1	4	1	350	3	4	3
Shaik Mohideen (Shencottah) ...	...	...	...	165	1	1	1
K. H. Muttukrishna Aiyar ...	...	...	...	765	...	..	...
Jacob John ...	...	2	5	348	...	4	4
Gopala Pillai ...	2	2	1	540	...	3	3
K. Kesavan ...	1	4	3	...	...	4	4
K. E. Kunju Raman ...	4	6	2	282	...	6	6
A. K. Koshi ...	1	4	3	301	...	4	4
A. G. Joseph ...	3	5	1	329	...	4	4
V. Subrahmanya Aiyar ...	1	5	4	182	...	1	4
C. P. Pothan ...	...	14	12	2,391	2	12	12
A. Narayana Aiyar ...	...	5	5	2,014	...		5
M. Kunju Panikkan ...	...	14	14	2,092	...		11

Appendix I. (*Contd.*)

Name of Sub-Inspector.	Number of cases of illicit distillation.	Number of house-searches.	Number of cases of illicit possession of arrack and toddy detected.	Number of trees marked for tapping.	Number of cases of contraband opium, ganja and tobacco.	Number of cases charged.	Number of cases convicted.
R. Sivasankara Pillai ...	..	1	1	...	...	1	1
M. Velayudha Panikkar ...	...	3	4	...	4	5	5
P. V. Krishna Pillai ...	...	1	1	...	3	4	4
T. D. Daniel ...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1
E. A. Padmanabhan ...	...	1	1	...	1	2	2
P. N. Nilakanda Pillai ...	2	21	19	2,243	3	43	43
K. Madhavan ...	3	4	3	263	...	6	4
K. M. Mahamad Ali (Pampadi) ...	...	5	6	441	...	11	11
A. Sekharan (Pampadi) ...	...	8	9	702	...	17	17
C. N. D'Lemos ...	...	12	17	3,377	1	27	26
T. O. Chacko ...	4	8	3	589	2	8	8
A Gnanaprakasam Pillai ...	8	18	9	1,540	1	18	18
P. K. Narayana Pillai ...	4	16	12	861		16	16
A Sekharan (Veliyanad) ...	1	6	5	469	...	6	6
K. M. Mahamad Ali Do. ...	...	3	3	1,002	...	3	3
T. C. Cheriyan ...	...	3	3	52	...	3	3
E. Parameswaran Pillai ...	...	4	4	252	...	4	3
A. P. Isaac ...	1	11	10	856	...	10	9
M. C. Oomman ...	2	3	1	580	...	6	6
J. Fernandez ...	4	8	4	758	...	16	10
C. Ponnumuttu Nadar ...	2	8	6	871	...	16	16
N. K. Gopalan Nair ...	...	7	4	...	4	4	4
Meera Mohideen ...	...	2	2	...	2	8	3
T. J. Matthew ...	...	...	1	...	1	3	2
K. Paramesvaran Pillai (Edapalli) ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
J. G. Pantaleen (Verapoli) ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2
Do. ...	...	...	2	...	1	3	3
K. Paramesvaran Pillai ...	...	1	2	..	1	1	1
Total ...	56	279	238	36,677	42	364	342

Appendix II.

Vide Answer to Question No. 51.

Statement showing the particulars of house searches conducted by officers of the different grades of the Excise Department in 1096 and 1097.

Name of range or division.	Searches by						Searches						Searches with warrant.	
	Officers in charge of circles.		Inspectors.		Petty Officers.		Successful.		Charged.		Convicted			
	1096	1097	1096	1097	1096	1097	1096	1097	1096	1097	1096	1097	1096	1097
Nagercoil ...	2	...	3	...	...	...	5	...	4	...	3	...	...	...
Eraniel ...	...	1	1	12	...	1	1	14	1	14	1	11	...	1
Kalkulam ...	...	1	4	6	2	6	5	11	4	10	4	9	2	6
Vilavankod ...	...	...	3	19	...	...	2	15	2	15	2	13	1	...
Neyyattinkara ...	2	6	15	47	...	...	16	31	16	29	14	18	...	2
Trivandrum ...	...	...	12	10	...	...	9	7	8	5	8	5	...	...
Nedumangad ...	...	1	7	10	...	...	7	11	7	10	6	9	...	...
Chirayinkil ...	1	...	4	5	...	...	4	5	1	1	1	...	1	...
Quilon ...	...	...	17	15	...	...	17	15	17	15	17	14	...	...
Kottarakara ...	...	...	6	3	...	...	6	3	5	3	5	3	...	...
Pattanapuram ...	...	...	3	2	...	1	3	2	3	2	3	2	...	1
Shencottah ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Kunnattur ...	...	...	6	7	...	...	6	7	6	7	6	6	...	...
Karunagapalli ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	...	...
Kartikapalli ...	...	...	4	2	...	...	4	2	4	2	4	2	...	...
Mavelikara ...	2	...	13	12	...	...	14	11	14	11	14	11	...	...
Chengannur ...	...	...	8	5	...	...	8	5	8	5	8	5	...	...
Pattanamtitta ...	...	...	19	...	...	1	17	1	17	1	16	1	1	1
Tiruvalla ...	...	...	5	...	...	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	...	2
Alleppey ...	1	1	37	14	...	...	38	15	38	15	36	14	...	1
Veluttully ...	...	1	3	4	...	...	3	5	3	4	3	4	...	...
Chenganda ...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	2	1	1	1	1	...	...
Nerekadavu ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
Puttotta ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3	1	3	1	2	...	...
Ettumanur ...	...	...	11	4	...	...	11	4	11	3	11	3	...	...
Kottayam ...	...	...	13	4	...	...	13	4	10	4	10	4	...	...
Changanacher ...	...	...	12	6	...	...	9	4	9	4	9	4	...	...
Minachil ...	...	...	7	6	...	...	7	6	6	6	6	6	...	...
Peermade ...	...	...	7	2	...	...	7	2	7	2	7	2	...	...
Muvattupuzha ... Piravam ...	1	1	24	21	3	4	28	26	24	25	24	24	...	...
Kunnatnad ...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	17	...	17	...	17	...	...
Alangad ...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	...	...
Parur ...	...	...	17	10	...	...	17	10	17	10	17	10	...	...
Devicolam ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	11	12	267	254	6	15	269	246	252	232	245	208	6	14

Appendix III.

***Vide* Answer to Question No 55.**

Statement of arrack and toddy shops near public roads, markets, etc.

Kind of shops.	Number of arrack and toddy shops near			
	Public roads.	Markets.	Schools.	Places of public worship.
Arrack	224	35	28	75
Toddy	385	46	34	49

Appendix IV.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 59.**

Statement showing the number of toddy and arrack shops resold in 1098.

Serial No.	Range.	Kind and No. of shops.	Rental of the shops. Before resale. Rs.	ch.	c.	After resale. Rs.	ch.	c.
		KANNI 1098.						
1	Pattanapuram ...	Toddy shop No. 11	220	...	...	160	...	...
2	Minachil ...	Do. 11	905	...	...	905	...	...
3	Do. ...	Do. 28	605	...	...	505	...	...
4	Neyyattinkara ...	Do. 18	515	...	...	350	...	...
5	Kunnatnad ...	Arrack shop No. 9	115	...	...	115	...	...
6	Ettumanur ...	Toddy shop No. 23	805	...	...	805	...	...
7	Do. ...	Do. 29	850	...	...	850	...	...
8	Changanachery ...	Do. 11	555	...	...	565	...	...
		TULAM 1098.						
9	Mavelikara ...	Toddy shop No. 19	450	...	...	475	...	...
10	Kunnatnad ...	Arrack shop No. 16	225	...	...	225	...	...
11	Chirayinkil ...	Toddy shop No. 25	400	...	...	400	...	...
12	Do. ...	Do. 26	350	...	...	350	...	...
13	Tiruvalla ...	Do. 10	520	...	...	425	...	...
14	Chengannur ...	Do. 8	255	...	...	275	...	...
15	Do. ...	Do. 13	350	...	...	250	...	...
16	Minachil ...	Do. 31	500	...	...	420	...	...
17	Minachil (Poonjar) ...	Arrack shop No. 7	205	...	...	205	...	...
18	Karunagapalli ...	Do. 3	120	...	...	150	...	...
19	Kunnattur ...	Toddy shop No. 20	690	...	...	615	...	...
		VRISCHIKAM 1098.						
20	Mavelikara ...	Toddy shop No. 6	250	...	...	200	...	...
21	Kunnattur ...	Do. 13	400	...	...	370	...	...
22	Do. ...	Do. 18	550	...	...	450	...	...
		DHANU 1098.						
23	Kottayam ...	Arrack shop No. 17	120	...	...	120	...	...
24	Do. ...	Toddy shop No. 19	475	...	...	475	...	...
25	Pattanamtitta ...	Do. 2	250	...	...	200	...	...
26	Do. ...	Do. 3	200	...	...	175	...	...
27	Mavelikara ...	Do. 4	335	...	...	310	...	...
28	Ambalapuzha ...	Arrack shop No. 7	30	...	...	30	...	...
29	Nedumangad ...	Toddy shop No. 28	320	...	...	320	...	...
30	Chirayinkil ...	Do. 10	240	...	...	250	...	...
		MAKARAM 1098.						
31	Mavelikara ...	Arrack shop No. 14	120	...	...	100	...	...
32	Muvattupuzha ...	Do. 27	1,020	...	...	790	...	...
33	Nedumangad ...	Toddy shop No. 19	295	...	...	295	...	...
34	Kunnattur ...	Do. 19	350	...	...	225	...	...
		KUMBHAM 1098.						
35	Neyyattinkara ...	Arrack shop No. 24	1,375	...	...	975	...	...

Appendix IV—(*Contd.*)

Serial No.	Range.	Kind and No. of Shops.	Rental of the Shops. Before resale Rs.	ch.	c.	After esale. Rs.	ch.	
		MINAM 1098.						
36	Minachil ...	Arrack Shop No 8	255	...	...	255	..	...
37	Chirayinkil ..	Toddy Shop No. 25	400	...	...	250	...	...
38	Do. ...	Do. 26	350	...	.	300	...	...
39	Pattanapuram ...	Arrack Shop No. 9	355	...	...	315		...
40	Chengannur ...	Toddy Shop No. 26	230	...	...	250	...	...
41	Do. ...	Do. 28	230	...	...	250	...	...
42	Kottayam ...	Arrack Shop No. 8	300	...	...	300	...	...
43	Mavelikkara ...	Do. 3	440	...	...	225	...	...
		MEDAM 1098						
44	Karunagapalli ...	Toddy Shop No. 1	500	...	...	455	...	...
45	Do. ...	Do. 5	400	...	...	525	...	...
46	Do. ...	Do. 9	475	...	...	815	...	...
47	Do. ...	Do. 10	805	...	..	830	..	...
		EDAVAM 1098						
48	Kottarakara ...	Arrack shop No. 1	240	...	...	145	...	...
49	Do. ...	Do. 2	220	...	...	150	...	...
50	Do. ...	Do. 3	230	...	...	155	...	...
51	Do. ...	Do. 4	300	...	...	160	...	...
52	Do. ..	Do. 5	300	...	...	160	...	...
53	Do. ...	Do. 6	1,225	...	...	1,425	...	...
54	Do. ...	Do. 7	250	...	..	130	...	...
55	Do. ...	Do. 8	250	...	...	350	...	...
56	Do. ...	Do. 9	470	...	..	395	...	...
57	Do. ...	Do. 11	165	...	..	130	...	...
58	Do. ...	Do. 12	300	...	...	265	...	...
59	Do. ..	Do. 13	140	...	...	150	...	...
60	Do. ...	Do. 14	125	...	...	70	...	...
61	Do. ...	Do. 15	175	...	...	300	...	...
62	Do. ...	Do. 17	200	...	...	155	...	...
63	Do. ...	Do. 19	120	...	...	85	...	...
64	Do. ..	Do. 20	120	...	...	105	...	...
65	Do. ...	Do. 21	260	...	...	110	...	...
66	Pattanapuram ...	Do. 13	2,375	...	...	2,380	...	...
67	Kunnatnad ...	Do. 26	90	...	...	70	...	...
68	Nedumangad ...	Toddy shop No. 24	305	...	...	250	...	...
69	Pattanamtitta ...	Arrack shop No. 7	90	...	...	90	...	...
70	Kottarakara ..	Do. 10	160	...	...	200	...	...
71	Do. ...	Do. 16	100	...	...	40	...	...
72	Do. ...	Do. 18	250	...	...	145	...	...
73	Kottayam ...	Toddy shop No. 38	400	...	...	400	..	...

Appendix V.

Vide **Answer to Question No. 62.**

Statement of Travelling Allowance drawn by the High Court Judges.

		Rs.	chs.	c.
	1097.			
Chief Justice	... ...	281	18	5
Mr. Justice Chatfield	... ...	292	8	10
	1098.			
Chief Justice	... ...	356	6	12
Mr. Justice Viraraghavachariar	... ...	200	4	5
Mr. Justice Raman Tampi	... ...	323	2	2

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to the demands for grants.

DEMAND 1. LAND REVENUE.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 8·77 lakhs under Demand I—Land Revenue.

PRESIDENT: I see there are two motions relating to the reduction of the allotment for establishment, one for the reduction of Rs. 6,000 and another for the reduction of Rs. 4,800. May I take it that these two motions are identical?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Motion 1.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I beg leave to make the following motion:—

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,693 for establishment by Rs. 6,000.

ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷനിൽ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അവിടെയുള്ള സിൽബന്തി ചിലവുകളിലും, പ്രാദേശികപ്പടികളിലും ൬൦൦൦ രൂപ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ കാൎയ്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു യാതൊരു കുറവും വരുന്നതല്ല. ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷനിൽ രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളേയുള്ളു. അതിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ജനവാസമുള്ളതായ പല പകുതികളെയും മററു താലൂക്കുകളോടു ചേൎത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതി, വണ്ടിപ്പെരിയാർ ചീഫിൻേറയും പല കമ്പനിക്കാരുടേയും കയ്യിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഭൂമികളുടെ വിവരം, ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷൻെറ ആവശ്യമില്ലായ്മ, ഇവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച മിസ്റ്റർ ഡാമിനിക്ക് തൊമ്മൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഭംഗിയായി വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കഴിയും വിധം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ കാലത്തു വേണ്ടപോലെ ജോലിയില്ലാത്തതായ ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷനിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളും അതുസംബന്ധമായ മററു ചിലവുകളും ആ തോതിനു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

൬൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഭൂനികുതിയുള്ളതും രണ്ടു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ തെക്കൻ ഡിവിഷനേയും അവിടേയുള്ള ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെയും കുറച്ചുകളയാൻ ഗവൎൺമെൻറിനു പ്രയാസമില്ലായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ൨൰ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഭൂനികുതിയുള്ളതും ഒരു ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുള്ളതുമായ ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷനേയോ അതിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളേയോ, അവിടെ വൎദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്ന മററു ചിലവുകളേയോ കുറച്ചു കളയുന്നതിനുള്ള ദൃഷ്ടാ-

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

തിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആശ്ചര്യം തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു. ഗവർന്മെന്റിന്റെ മനോഗതി ഇങ്ങനെ ഇരിക്കുമ്പോൾ നിയമസഭയിലുള്ള അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥാംഗങ്ങളുടെ ശക്തിയിലൊതുങ്ങുന്ന അധികച്ചിലവുകളെ പുലർത്തിവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ ൯൦൦൦ രൂപായും കുറക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ശിപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I oppose that motion.

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Devicolam Division has been given the least number of clerks possible and there is no possible way in which we can reduce the number of clerks and the establishment without interfering with the work to a very great extent. The member has not made out any case why it should be reduced. On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary that we keep to the present allotment and it is absolutely impossible to reduce the present staff any further.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will Mr. Robinson be pleased to state whether there is any necessity for having a Commissioner at Devicolam?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That division is, in certain matters, very different from other divisions. It is very inaccessible and is not easily get-at-able from the plains. It has got peculiar features of its own and if we try to work it from Kottayam, the revenue would suffer. It is necessary that, before making such a suggestion, the member should go and see the features of the country. There are practically no means of communication. On the plains, the *pakuthies* are not half a mile apart; but in Devicolam one has to go sometimes a distance of twenty miles to go from one *pakuthi* to another. It takes practically a whole day to go from one *pakuthi* to another. Although there are only two taluks, considering the peculiar features of the country, the want of proper means of communication, and the inaccessible nature of the various *pakuthies* of the place, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a separate division.

PRESIDENT: Has any other gentleman anything to say in regard to the motion?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish also to support the motion. With respect to the query raised by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, I thought there would have been some substantial reason shown for the retention of the division. But on hearing Mr. Robinson, I feel that absolutely nothing has been made out by him for

the retention of that division. The only plea that Mr. Robinson has to urge in support of the retention of this particular division is the peculiar nature of the division itself. He further pointed out that the division is inaccessible and is not capable of being managed from Kottayam. Now, Sir, similar administrative difficulties have been experienced in the low-lying regions in Travancore and a device has been found by the Government in the matter by appointing Division Assistants to particular localities where there is any difficulty. A similar arrangement, I am submitting, is quite sufficient for looking after this Devicolam Division; and the creation and retention of a Commissioner of Devicolam are absolutely out of proportion to the requirements of the case. Therefore, I am perfectly at one with Mr. Kumara Pillai in the matter of urging the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, one of the arguments advanced by Mr. Robinson was that we, lowlanders, cannot appreciate the difficulties incidental to the administration of the highland division. I claim some knowledge of the highland division. I am submitting that, although the area is 1,120 sq. miles, only 14 per cent. of the area is cultivated, and there is only a population of 56,000 odd, of which the major portion is made up of migratory labour. As regards the revenue collection, the major portion is from lands registered under the Coffee Land Rules, now known as the Revised Waste Lands Rules; and in these cases the revenue is payable directly into the treasury and no *proverthikar* or other staff is necessary. The next head of revenue is that from the cardamom estates and they also are very easy to manage. Registry under the ordinary *puduval* rules is rare.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will the member be pleased to say how it would be possible to detect encroachments in the cardamom estates?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As regards encroachments in the cardamom hills, at present there are very few such cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will Mr. Krishna Aiyar give me the figures?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I sent several questions to Government and also gave notice of a resolution in regard to the Devicolam Division. The interpellations have not been answered by Government. I therefore assume that my presumption about the work in that division is correct.

PRESIDENT: As regards your interpellations, Mr. Krishna Aiyar, they have lapsed, and you have not repeated them, so far as I remember.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As I have not been answered till now, I presume that my impression is correct and I base my remarks on the same. So far as the revenue work is concerned, there is very little work; because, as I have already

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

pointed out, most of the revenue is payable directly into the treasury. In respect of transfer of registry and *karampatippu* cases there are very few current cases. Six or seven *pakuthies* have now been transferred to the Changanachery and Minachil taluks. The criminal work there is also very light.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask whether the member has got figures of the work due to criminal, civil, and revenue cases?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): There also I had applied for information but did not get them. I therefore submit from my own information that there are very few cases. If Mr. Robinson is in a position to correct me, I would request him to give the information. On these grounds I would submit that that division does not deserve to exist. When it was part of the Kottayam Division, it was administered very well.

The number of Europeans there is only 114. I am sure they would not insist on having a European Commissioner. I believe they would also help us in the matter. I am sure they would tell us that they have perfect faith in the Indian administration and do not want a special Commissioner for themselves. Therefore it cannot be pleaded that it is on behalf of the 114 Europeans that a separate division has been created and the costly establishment kept up.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I would also beg to say a few words. I believe that the real reasons that the Government keep in view in maintaining a Commissioner for Devicolam is the necessity to have a European officer there, in consideration of the fact that there is a large number of planters and other Europeans in the High Ranges. I am one of those who are prepared to recognise the valuable work done by the European planters in the High Ranges. But for them, the High Ranges would have remained as inhospitable as they were some years back. Devicolam which was so much feared by people of the plains is now a sanatorium; and Government also are realising considerable sums of money from the High Ranges. The day will come when the revenue from the High Ranges will not be less than the revenue in any other division in Travancore. Large numbers of people from the plains are now migrating to Devicolam for settlement.

Mr. Robinson said that there are no means of communication. Sir, that has been all along the subject of our complaint to the Government. For several years past we have been complaining against the prodigal expenditure on buildings and have been urging the necessity for roads and other means of communication. We should also recognise the fact that the European planters have come very much to our rescue by undertaking to open roads at their own cost on Government agreeing to contribute a share. It is because of the longstanding neglect in the matter of means of communication that that division has not received proper attention at the hands of Government in the matter of

communications. I happen to remember a circumstance and it is mainly that which made me speak a few words now. Some time ago there was a proposal that the Police work in the several districts in Travancore should be entrusted to the D. S. P's. in Kottayam and Quilon. At that time the arrangement was that the High Ranges should be placed in the direct charge of the Commissioner of Police who lived far away in Trivandrum. So, I refuse to believe that the difficulty is one of communication. I prefer to believe that it is on account of certain delicate circumstances and also on account of the fact that the Europeans may like to have a European officer in the High Ranges. The Travancore Government is prepared to respect their feelings. I am not at all for disrespecting the feelings of the Europeans. The Travancore Government ought to give all possible help to them as well as to others in the matter of further developing the High Ranges where they have been doing much work to the benefit of the State. But, the maintenance of a Commissioner is of absolutely no use even to the European community. Probably, as my friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested, if it is absolutely essential—for my part I do not believe it is so—that there should be a European officer there, a European Division Assistant may be appointed and until the Europeans become acclimatised to new arrangements, the European Division Assistant might be retained there. The post of a Revenue Commissioner in Devicolam is absolutely unnecessary.

MR. S C. H. ROBINSON: (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): What would Mr. Velu Pillai suggest instead of a Revenue Commissioner?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Louder, please.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I ask Mr. Velu Pillai what he would suggest instead of the Revenue Commissioner.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): As regards revenue matters, I am for placing Devicolam also under the jurisdiction of the Kottayam Peishkar. Time was when that was the arrangement, and Devicolam did not suffer much when it was under the Kottayam Peishkar. Well, Sir, I am sure that I am saying this in the interests of the public at large. Kanjirapalli may be made the headquarters of the Division Assistant.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything further. It is absolutely necessary in the interests of public revenue to abolish the post of Devicolam Commissioner and to accept the suggestion of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and appoint a Division Assistant who may be a European if necessary.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The importance of the Devicolam Division cannot be judged by its population or area. It is true that it was managed by the Kottayam

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Peishkar, but he was not able to adequately discharge his work in the Devicolam Division.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I beg to ask in what particular matters he was not able to adequately discharge his work.

MR. R KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Land revenue administration, encouragement of cultivation, etc.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask the Chief Secretary for a comparative statement of the steps taken for the encouragement of cultivation, of land revenue administration and other things, under the present arrangement, and also when Devicolam was under the Kottayam Peishkar?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I can prepare the statement and give the member, if necessary. I have not got it ready.

PRESIDENT: He bases his observations on what impression he has now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): As he is the Chief Secretary, I asked for the information. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I wish to know, Sir, whether the five minutes assigned to each member is exclusive of the time taken up by answering questions put to him. If it were otherwise, official members cannot find time to answer the various points raised by non-officials.

There is considerable scope for development in the Devicolam Division. When the proposed road from Peermade to Devicolam is opened, there will be a large extent of land still available for cultivation.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will it not be time enough to revive the post of the Commissioner when there is adequate demand for lands?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Even otherwise a Commissioner will be necessary for Devicolam, because it is far away from the plains.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether a Division Assistant will not be able to do the work.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible for a Division Assistant to do the work. He is at Peermade far away from Devicolam.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the time taken for a man to go from Peermade to Devicolam and from Kottayam to Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): About four days for the journey from Devicolam to Peermade.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It takes only about three hours for a journey from Kottayam to Peermade.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As far as I can understand, the whole thing turns round a sort of sentiment. The European Commissioner is placed there because it is a European colony. That seems to be more or less the cause of the appointment. Travancore is indebted to the Europeans to a very great extent, as Mr. Velu Pillai correctly pointed out. The whole of the High Range would have been lying waste if it had been left to itself. The Europeans are pioneers of the place and have made a little paradise of the whole country.. It is absolutely necessary for us to admit that they have done a great deal for Travancore in this respect.

Now the angle of vision is changed. The Europeans there are some of the finest fellows.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know, Sir, whether, in the light of the discussion that has taken place till now, Mr. Hoogewerf is justified in referring to European colonisation and the need therefore for having a European Commissioner?

PRESIDENT: I think he refers to it because Mr. Velu Pillai referred to it. For my part, I think it is irrelevant. I may point out that the post of the Devicolam Commissioner is itself non-votable.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I just mentioned the fact. Without statistics we are not able to argue this point properly. I would say, as mentioned by Mr. Velu Pillai, that the Europeans there do not mind at all, as far as my information goes, whether they are tried by an Indian magistrate or by an African or Red-Indian. They want only justice. Those days have all gone.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): As Mr. Velu Pillai suggested, a Division Assistant might be appointed, if necessary, a European.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there are one or two points which were urged in favour of the retention of the Devicolam Division. The place is said to be inaccessible. The Commissioner of Devicolam, in excercising the Dewan Peishkar's duties, is obliged to go all the way from Devicolam to Kottayam and then from Kottayam to Peermade. That being the case, I cannot understand why the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam should occasionally find it difficult to go to Devicolam and carry on the work of the Commissioner there. The western outlet road which has now been opened is fit for motor cars; and therefore even though it was difficult in olden days, it is not so now. Except during monsoon, a motor car can very easily go on these roads. It is not at all difficult now for the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, to go to Devicolam.

Another point which I should like to know is what are the duties which a Division Assistant would not be able to carry out and which necessitate the presence of a Dewan Peishkar or Commissioner there.

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

I should also like to know, taking the statistics for the last few years, how many cases have arisen which would have necessitated the presence of a Dewan Peishkar or Commissioner there, and which could not have been adequately met by a Division Assistant. I should think that a European Division Assistant under the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam would be sufficient for all practical purposes. The revenue is very small and the collection of most of the revenue there will not require very costly or complicated machinery. Now that we are out for retrenchment it would be quite sufficient, judging from the materials placed before us, if the Dewan Peishkar of Kottayam is asked to exercise the powers of the Commissioner for Devicolam and one European Division Assistant be placed there, assisted by two Tahsildars in Devicolam and Peermade.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The ground of opposition for the abolition of Devicolam Division is the difficulty arising therefrom in the practical administration as has been referred to by Mr. Robinson. I may point out to the House that till recently there was a separate forest division for the High Ranges and it has been found possible to abolish that division and amalgamate it with the Kottayam Division. I believe the Divisional Forest Officer at Kottayam does not find it difficult to administer the forests so far as the High Range is concerned. It will be admitted that the work of the conservation of forests is a more responsible and a more arduous one; and in that light I fail to see why this division should not be abolished.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Sir, I wish to say a few words in this connection. The question before the House is about the reduction of Rs. 6,000 from the allotment for establishment charges. But the speeches which have been delivered in this connection had more reference to the abolition of the Devicolam Commissionership; and it has been ruled from the Chair that that matter by itself is not relevant. But it may be submitted that, since that appointment is not a votable one, within the limited powers given to the Council, we can only attack the lower portion, *i. e.*, the establishment. And our object in doing so is to bring home to the Government the fact that, though it is not actually votable, we are of opinion that such appointments are not necessary. If that be the view,—and I think that seems to be the right view,—I fully agree with my friends who have already addressed the House on the subject that the appointment of a highly paid Commissioner is not justifiable in the present circumstances of our financial strain. As has been suggested, it may well be tried with a European Assistant Commissioner. But the question really before the House is with regard to the establishment itself. Of course, if we reduce the establishment to an unworkable extent I think we will be only doing injustice to ourselves. Then the further question is whether the reduction could be made to the extent of Rs. 6,000. I must confess my ignorance in regard to the unapproachability of the various places in

that division which has been so pointedly brought to our notice by Mr. Robinson. I had the honour to represent the Devicolam Division for two years in the last Council. I must admit that I had not the opportunity to visit the place because it was so inaccessible; and no doubt it does not give me any credit for that. Still I must confess that travelling to Devicolam is rather difficult, though I have no experience of the difficulties of the officers stationed there. Under the circumstances, to what extent reduction is possible is a matter of detail which I am not in a position to say. I would rather leave it to the good sense of the Government to see whether some reduction could not reasonably be made. In this spirit I approach the subject.

PRESIDENT: I think there is a doubt which it would be well to clear. As I have already said, the appointment of the Commissioner at Devicolam is non-votable. But his establishment will be largely votable and the establishment has been classed as votable here. But the point of differentiation to which Mr. Nidiry has referred is, I think, very important, because that point will be referred to again and again in the course of our budget discussion, and I think the view to be taken is that, when a motion comes before the House for the abolition of an establishment which involves the abolition of a non-votable appointment as a necessary consequence, that strictly is not votable by the House. If the object of a motion to reduce the provision for the establishment and contingencies which are provided for an officer who holds a non-votable appointment is to abolish that appointment, I think it should not be pressed to a division. Unless I give that as a ruling to be followed I think we will be landed in an *impasse*, and the vote of the House will also not result in anything practical. Of course, the House has got a right to express its opinion as to the necessity for the retention of a non-votable appointment. A more proper way of bringing up that motion before the House is by means of a resolution. But at this session, we have no time for resolutions. In a budget motion, although reference could be made to the opinion of members that a particular non-votable appointment is unnecessary, I do not think that the House will be in order in disallowing entirely the establishment etc., which are absolutely necessary for the work of the officer who holds the non-votable appointment. That is how I view the rules. There is no express rule on the subject. There are some rulings in similar Legislative Councils elsewhere. I think this is the only workable interpretation to give to those rulings.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I think it necessary to speak a few words on this motion especially in view of the ruling that has now been given by the President. Sir, the motion before the House contemplates the reduction of Rs. 6,000 out of a total allotment for the establishment of which this Rs. 6,000 may not be and is not in excess of the pay of the Devicolam Commissioner, so that, in case this House were to carry this motion for the reduction of Rs. 6,000, the Government, especially in the light of the discussion that has been carried on in this House, might then take it that it is not a

[President.]

motion for reduction of the establishment of clerks, etc., but essentially one in regard to the appointment itself. I must point out that the regulation and the rules have been already interpreted and the precedent has been set even in this very House by the President at the last budget session, whereby similar motions for reduction in the establishment moved and carried in this House in the light of the discussion regarding a non-votable item have been decidedly ruled to relate to that non-votable item and accordingly those appointments, although they were strictly nonvotable, have been dispensed with. I would only refer as an instance to the managership in the Excise Commissioner's office which was a non-votable item because it carried a salary of more than Rs. 125 per mensem. A reduction to the extent of his salary in the establishment has been taken to mean that the managership should be abolished and it was abolished.

PRESIDENT: I think that was a motion accepted by Government. That makes all the difference. I am aware of an analogous ruling in the Madras Council. It must be left entirely to the Government to accept or not to accept the reduction of a non-votable appointment contemplated.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, my point is that, in the light of the discussion on which voting proceeds, such motions will not affect the real establishment, but will only affect the very appointment which formed the subject-matter of the discussion. I humbly submit that that is one of the privileges that have been recognised in the Madras Legislative Council and the principle was referred to in this House during the last budget discussion and recognised by the President himself. I would also refer to the discussions on the Police Department relating to Assistant Superintendents. The discussion on those posts was carried on and votes were also taken on the understanding that a motion for reduction in regard to their establishment related to the appointment of Assistant Superintendents of Police. And so my prayer is that if this motion happens to be carried —and I hope it will be carried—the Government will realise for what purpose we are moving it and for what purpose it has been voted upon by this House.

PRESIDENT: I have explained the matter. It is a very difficult point and it is a matter of very great importance. I am aware of the fact that, in the Madras Legislative Council, such motions are allowed and perhaps voted upon. Here also it is true that we discussed such motions, but I think last year some of these motions were in fact definitely accepted, while there was no discussion on those not accepted by Government. It must be essentially left to the Government to decide, after being influenced by the discussion, whether to accept such motion which involves the abolition of a non-votable appointment or not. But if the motion is to be pressed to a division and if the House votes and carries the motion it can only mean that the Government will take into consideration either the abolition or reduction as the case may be and give effect to it if it thinks fit.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes, Sir. To ascertain the wishes of the House it may be necessary to come to a division. Government should be made aware of the opinion of the House in the matter under discussion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With reference to the suggestion of Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, I may say that, if the cutting down of the establishment is voted upon, the result will be that the establishment will have to be disbanded and the officer will be there and continue to draw his pay without doing any work. In such cases, I think the proper procedure as elsewhere seems to be that, if a nominal reduction is proposed and even carried by the House, Government will be bound to give effect to that opinion of the House by considering the question whether the abolition of the post of the officer is itself necessary or not. But instead of doing that, that is by voting a nominal reduction and expressing its opinion, what is now being done is that the whole of the establishment of a particular office should be entirely reduced. The House can best record its views on the desirability or otherwise of a non-votable appointment by proposing a nominal reduction.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): A nominal reduction is generally brought forward when a question of policy or principle is involved.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): This too is really a question of policy.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഒരു ഡിവിഷന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം അതിലെ ജനസംഖ്യകൊണ്ടോ നികുതിയുടെ തുക കൊണ്ടോ ഗണിച്ചപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതല്ലെന്നു ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ പറകയുണ്ടായി.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I never said that the importance of a division should be judged by its revenue. I only referred to area and population.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. എന്തുകൊണ്ടും ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷനെക്കാൾ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള തെക്കൻ ഡിവിഷൻ നിർത്തിയതു വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ദേവികുളം ഡിവിഷൻ നിറുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ ദോഷം ഒന്നും നേരിടാനില്ല.

MR S C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The proposition is the abolition of the Devicolam Division as a Division and various reasons have been put forward by the members. But none of these reasons are acceptable as I will presently show. One of the members argued that because the Forest Officer is down on the plains, the Commissioner too can be on the plains. The Forest Officer can work the forests by being in the plains. That argument would not have been put forward if the member had been up at Devicolam and

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

seen the place. The forests are at the foot of the hills and accessible from the plains. The populated and cultivated parts are on the top of the hills and down the slopes adjoining British India.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is the member aware that the District Superintendent of Police, Quilon Division, controls the Police in the Devicolam Division.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): We are now talking about Revenue Divisions. We are not now concerned with the Police or the Forest Department. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai is aware that the chief means of getting to Devicolam is through British India. Possibly in dry weather you may use the western outlet road. But it is not possible in wet weather. Nearly all the produce goes through British India. Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has had occasion to go to Devicolam and then he came only through British India. The distance between Peermade and Devicolam is not shorter than the other way. Officers make use of the other way because there are good roads in the other route. That is not the only reason for keeping Deviculam a separate divison. Another reason is that you must have a responsible officer on the spot both as regards crime and as regards income tax work; and the general work relating to the collection of income tax is very much bigger than in all the other Divisions put together. An officer has to be there to understand what items are to be taken into account in assessing income tax and what items should not be taken into account. There are other reasons also. Last year, for instance, during the monsoon, Devicolam and Peermade were practically cut off from food-supply. With great difficulty the supply was obtained from British India and it would have been perfectly impossible to get it from the Travancore side.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Do the general rules regarding transfer of officers from one place to another apply to the Devicolam Commissioner? Can he be transferred as a Peishkar of Trivandrum?

PRESIDENT: I do not think it arises from this.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Shall I explain? According to the rules, officers may be transferred from one place to another. My question is whether the Devicolam Commissioner can be appointed Dewan Peishkar of Trivandrum?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter for the Government. You may go on, Mr. Robinson.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not see how it is relevant.

PRESIDENT: I have ruled the question as out of order.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to have a statement from Mr. Robinson.

Will Government see their way to appoint an Indian gentleman as Commissioner at Devicolam ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I think that question has to be ruled out.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : It is for the President to rule it out or not, and not for the member.

PRESIDENT : I am afraid I must rule it out of order. Mr. Velu Pillai, I daresay you understand the peculiar constitution and the peculiar circumstances here. When a motion is dealt with, the head of the department stands up a member of this House to reply to it. He does not represent Government except to that extent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : In that case there is not much good in the members on the official side if they cannot make any statement regarding policy. But in regard to my resolution for the establishment of a University, Mr. Hodgson was able to give us an assurance about the appointment of a committee.

PRESIDENT : He must have had the authority of Government. Unless the question falls within the four walls of the point in issue, you cannot get an answer.

MR. S. C. H ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Mr. Velu Pillai referred to the backward condition of the place. We have got all sorts of tribes and castes and a responsible officer is necessary on the spot. There is, besides, the income tax work.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : He refers to crimes. Is he in possession of statistics ? Can he give us the number of original cases ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : I have not got the figures here.

PRESIDENT : May I ask Mr. Kumara Pillai what this Rs. 6,000 consists of ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ലോക്കൽ അലവൻസ് കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടാണ്.

PRESIDENT : Do you press your motion to the vote.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost; 21 voting *for* and 23 *against*.

MR. M. R MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : I demand a poll.

A poll was accordingly taken with the following result :—

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

AYES—21.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
2. „ Paul V. Daniel.
3. „ A. Govinda Menon.
4. „ A. Hoogewerf.
5. „ C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
6. „ S. Krishna Aiyar.
7. „ N. Kumaran.
8. „ T. Kumara Pillai.
9. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman.
10. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
11. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
12. „ K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
13. „ P. K. Narayana Pillai.
14. „ M. N. Pillai.
15. „ N. Padmanabha Pillai.
16. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
17. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
18. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
19. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai
20. „ K. P. Raman Pillai.
21. „ T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES—23.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
3. Mr. K. George.
4. „ L. C. Hodgson.
5. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
6. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
7. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.
8. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
9. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
10. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
11. Mr. T. Lakshmanan Pillai.
12. Mr. John Mackie.
13. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
14. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
15. „ P Paramesvaran.
16. „ W. H. Pitt.
17. „ C. Ramankunju.
18. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
19. Rao Bahadur K. V Rangaswami Aiyangar.
20. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
21. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
22. „ S. Subramanya Karayalar.
23. „ A. J. Van Ross.

Motion 2.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,693 for establishment under Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,800.

Now that the majority in the House has accepted that the Devicolam Commissionership should be retained, I am making this motion for reduction to draw the attention of this House to the superfluity of the post of the Division Assistant at Peermade on Rs. 400. I need not go over the ground that has already been traversed in this House when the previous motion was discussed. Mr. Dominic Tomman, a man on the spot, has declared that the post of the Division Assistant is certainly superfluous especially in view of the fact that out of the eleven *pakuthies* which formerly comprised the Peermade taluk, four have been added on to the Changanacherry taluk, and the jurisdiction over the Poonjar *pakuthi*

has been transferred to the Minachil taluk. The remaining *pakuthies* do not stand in need of such a costly officer as a Division Assistant. It would do very well if a Tahsildar with First Class Magistrate's powers is posted to the place. In view of the arguments that have been advanced already by the previous speakers in connection with the last motion I think both these officers need not be entertained at the same time for the Devicolam Division. I would therefore move for the reduction of Rs. 4,800, from the allotment under the Division Cutcherries.

PRESIDENT: The salary of the Division Assistant is a non-votable item. You cannot move for the reduction of it.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not want the salary of the Division Assistant to be voted upon. My motion is to reduce Rs. 4,800 out of the establishment charges.

PRESIDENT: I do not think the motion is admissible. The Government had no opportunity to know what this figure Rs. 4,800 represented. Nothing was gatherable from the motion. Rs. 4,800 is much more than the pay of the staff of the Peermade Division Assistant. That is what I am pointing out.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I may be permitted to make an amendment in the motion and propose a reduction of Rs. 100 only. Then I think the difficulty pointed out will not arise. Otherwise I wish to adhere to the motion that Rs. 4,800 may be reduced out of the establishment charges. I request to be allowed to speak upon that point.

PRESIDENT: I cannot allow your amendment at this juncture. Your original motion is not definite. You say it relates to establishment. Not only the establishment of the Division Assistant of Peermade but also other establishments will be affected by the reduction proposed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move for a reduction of Rs. 4,800 out of the charges for the establishment under Division Cutcherries. The establishment charges for the Division Assistant and the Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam are clubbed together under "Division Cutcherries".

PRESIDENT: You must be in a position to give particulars regarding the amount you seek to reduce.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): There is a motion tabled by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai for a reduction of Rs. 100 from the allotment for the Division Cutcherries. And in connection with that motion, the question of policy may be discussed and I think my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai will withdraw his present motion now.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, do you withdraw your motion ?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not press my motion at this stage.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

Motion 3.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for fuel reserve in Devicolam by Rs. 200.

At the time I sent up my motion, I was at a loss to know why there should be a fuel reserve maintained by the Revenue Department. Subsequently I have been told that, on account of the scarcity of fuel in Devicolam, it was thought by Mr. Robinson that such a reserve ought to be opened; and some non-official friends of mine who have knowledge of the locality have assured me that it is a necessary institution. I believe it is some time since it has been opened and it may be now handed over to the Forest Department for conservation. If that is found possible, I think a small reduction of Rs. 500 may also be found practicable.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The cost asked for is for weeding and keeping up the fuel reserve. In fact we are now working it cheaper than it would be worked under the Forest Department, because the Devicolam Commissioner is *ex-officio* Forest Officer and the Forest Ranger is the Sheristadar, and passes are issued on the spot. So that it is found cheaper. The forest range officer nearest to Devicolam is at Poopara which is 20 miles away, right away in the Cardamom Hills which would take one a full day to get to. I may say that, in the High Ranges, the cost of weeding per acre a year is Rs. 15 and a sum of Rs. 2,000 is really necessary for the purpose. If one knows the state of things in the High Ranges, he will see that the fuel reserve is absolutely necessary for officers stationed there. It is also an experimental station for planting trees of various kinds, some of which, like the *melanoxylum*, an Australian tree, is useful for making railway carriages. We have also planted several varieties of other trees, foreign to Travancore. These are, however, only side-issues. If we want to weed and maintain the reserve, all the money budgeted is necessary. If we do not systematically weed out the grass which grows to great heights in those regions during the rains and dries up during the summer months, the reserve will catch fire and the whole reserve will be destroyed.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the acreage of this reserve?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The total area is 200 acres of which 40 acres is indigenous and which is for building purposes. The rest is planted with trees, the timber of which will be useful for fuel.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether this Rs. 500 is for the 40 acres or for the whole of the 200 acres?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): A sum of Rs. 2,000 was asked for and the Government cut it down to Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am sufficiently convinced of the necessity of the allotment and I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 4.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

4. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,597 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 2,250.*

ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ രണ്ടുഉദ്ദേശമാണുള്ളത്. ഒന്നാമതു ഇപ്പോഴം ചിലവു കൂടുതൽ ആയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ൧൦൦-നു ൧൦ വീതം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതു് നന്നായിരിക്കും എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. രണ്ടാമത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശം റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഏതു് ആഫീസിൽ പോയി നോക്കിയാലും ഒടിഞ്ഞ കസേര മേശ മുതലായതേ കാണുകയുള്ളൂ, എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഒരു റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ചെന്നുനോക്കിയാൽ പേർ പറയാതെതന്നെ ഇന്ന ആഫീസാണെന്നു് പറയാം. ഈ പണം ശരിയായ നിലയിൽ ആഫീസാണെന്നു കാണിക്കുന്നതിനു ചിലവാക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആക്ഷേപം ഇല്ല. ൧൦൦-നു ൧൦ വീതം കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെങ്കിലും ആഫീസ് നല്ല നിലയിൽവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിലേയ്ക്കു് അനുവദിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആക്ഷേപം ഇല്ല; എന്നുമാത്രമേ എനിക്കിതിൽ പറയാനുള്ളു. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയാനുള്ളതു് മിസ്റ്റർ റാബിൻസന്റെ മറുപടിക്കു ശേഷം പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I understand the object of Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion is to point out the want of furniture in the Revenue Department.

PRESIDENT: The broken condition of the furniture also.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is all the more reason why we should be granted the full amount. Our contingencies include book-binding, repairs to furniture, lighting, oil and all sorts of things. We find it very difficult to meet the expenditure with this amount. In regard to this allotment I may say that I asked for a greater amount, but the Government cut it down. If the Council still further cuts it down, it will be difficult to meet all the expenses under the head. We now find it difficult to make both ends meet. We cannot be going on purchasing chairs year after year. We want money for other things. Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to the broken condition of the furniture in the revenue offices. That is not our fault. We use to purchase furniture

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

and we have not got money to keep up the furniture. We are doing the best we can with the allotment available.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the annual allotment for repairs, I want to know whether a stock-register is kept as regards the whole furniture every year.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): We keep the store register showing the furniture in stock. This is verified, and unserviceable articles are written off and sold in auction and the proceeds credited in the accounts.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 5.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

5. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,770 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 100.*

My object is to point out one or two matters of general principle and get a declaration of Government's policy regarding those matters. It has now turned out that the first thing I must emphasise is the abolition of the Commissionership of Devicolam. Government must have been aware by this time that one of these places, either the Commissioner's place or the Peermade Division Assistant's place is superfluous. The next point to which I would draw the attention of Government is the fact that the Dewan Peishkars now-a-days have very little work to do. Before 1057 I find they had been attending to all matters affecting the revenue of the State. In fact the Dewan Peishkars in Travancore were practically doing the duties of the Collector in British India. In 1057 two Division Assistants were appointed and in creating the new appointment, the Government said:

"The Peishkar is expected hereafter to exercise a real and effective instead of as hitherto normal supervision over the customs, salt, tobacco, abkari, and opium revenue".

And it was said in that Government order that the Division Assistants to be so appointed will be men of intelligence and responsibility. Since then, the number of these assistants has been considerably increased. Along with the steady increase in the number of the Division Assistants, the duties of the Dewan Peishkar also were steadily diminished—so much so that now he is practically only a head revenue inspector. The Excise Department has been created and customs, salt and tobacco are being attended to by the Excise Commissioner and a costly staff under him. So my submission is that the Peishkar should be restored to his old status especially as the Devaswoms have been separated from the Revenue Department. The Peishkar should be restored

to his ancient position and made the chief officer of the department responsible for the collection of all kinds of revenue as the system in British India is and as the system was here, in days of yore.

I would also submit that care ought to be taken in the recruitment of both the Dewan Peishkar and his assistants. Regarding the assistants in particular, they are now-a-days recruited from the Tahsildars. The oldest among them in point of service are being appointed as Division Assistants, with the result that the object of the Government in creating this appointment is being frustrated. Even in the appointment of the Peishkar I should submit that the system of recruitment should be changed slightly. The object of giving a Division Assistant was to make the Peishkar really the guardian of the interest and welfare of the people committed to his care and watch over the administration and do everything necessary for the welfare of His Highness' subjects. He was asked to tour about much more than he used to do. Under the present system of recruitment, when an officer gets appointed as Peishkar he gets too enfeebled, so that his mind and body do not go together. (*Laughter.*) He may very much like to go to particular places at particular times. But his body refuses to obey his mind. So, I submit the system of recruitment should be so changed that an officer should become the head of the Division by the time he is below 40 years of age. It is only then that you might reasonably expect him to do real touring work and exercise effective supervision of the subordinates under him. Had that been done, I venture to think that much of the confusion in land records maintenance and other revenue matters would certainly not have arisen. Now that he is combining in himself the functions of the District Magistrate as well, I do not see why the system of direct recruitment should not be resorted to at least as an experiment.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I take this opportunity of emphasising the superfluity of having two officers in the Devicolam Division, *i. e.*, the Commissioner for Devicolam and the Division Assistant at Peermade. In case Government hold that the Devicolam Commissionership ought to be retained, it is essential that, in the interests of public finances, the appointment of the Peermade Division Assistant be dispensed with. With these observations, I support the motion for reduction of Rs. 100 under Division Cutcherries.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I also support the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, it is difficult to know at this stage exactly what point I have to meet. Mr. Raman Pillai talks about the work of the Division Peishkar and his assistants. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai discusses the necessity of the Commissioner for Devicolam and the Division Assistant at Peermade. However, I shall first of all deal with Mr. Raman Pillai's remarks. I think it is perfectly an accepted fact that, as the work increases, the necessity of having extra hands also increases. If you take a business firm, as an example, you will see that,

[Mr. P K. Narayana Pillai.]

as the business increases and income increases, the establishment charges also increase. Year by year the work of Government increases, rendering it necessary to add on extra hands. Mr. Raman Pillai referred to the work of the Dewan Peishkar some years ago. But since then the work has increased. He refers to the separation of the Devaswom work but he does not refer to the additional work that has since been thrown upon the Peishkar. He has to attend to the income tax work which is new, and the work under the Land Acquisition Regulation; he has got *maramat* work to attend to besides his inspection work. It is most difficult to get through for one officer. There is the *jamabandi* work also.

Then about the Division Assistant at Peermade. Devicolam is far away from Peermade and it is necessary to have on the spot an officer of the status of a Division Assistant as he has got the duties of a Peishkar in some respects and also those of a justice of the peace. The Devicolam Commissioner would find it very difficult to come down to Peermade and do the work of inspection over the various *pakuthies* and offices. Then again, there is the income tax work to do in certain *pakuthies*. The Division Assistant has a lot to do. If we want to have the Assistant's income tax work done by the Tahsildar, you have to amend the Income Tax Regulation.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): What then is the work of the Devicolam Commissioner?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The work of the Devicolam Commissioner is the same as that of the Division Peishkar. He is also a District Magistrate and he has got also the income-tax work. His work corresponds to that of a District Collector in British India. The income tax work alone at Peermade is very heavy. Having regard to the number of assessees and the other facts urged by me, one officer is absolutely necessary for Peermade.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapusha*): I am also supporting Mr. Raman Pillai's motion. The motion, especially as explained by the mover and also by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, will have far-reaching consequences. Though the House is now decidedly of opinion that the Commissioner of Devicolam is really necessary, yet if we can successfully lop off his assistant, then that would have an indirect effect upon the Commissioner and he himself would abdicate. (*Laughter.*) For tradition in Travancore is very clear that a Dewan Peishkar cannot exist without a Division Assistant. (*Laughter.*) Thus if we can successfully get rid of his Assistant now, the Peishkar will see that much of his glory would be robbed. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar was questioning Mr. Robinson what really is the work of the Commissioner. Evidently my friend forgot the fact that it is the duty of the Commissioner to issue orders to the assistant and see that the administration is run by the

Assistant. (*Laughter.*) That being the case, in the light of the explanation offered, the motion is a very acceptable one. With these words I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to add a few words. I understand Mr. Raman Pillai to base his motion on two grounds; one, that the Devicolam Commissionership is unnecessary, and the other, as regards the place of the Dewan Peishkar. Though the first ground alone has been discussed and though votes have been taken, it does not militate in any way against the possibility of dividing the House once again on the principle as to whether a Commissioner at Devicolam is necessary or not.

PRESIDENT: I do not grant that. I do not think the House has got the right to discuss it again and vote on it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The vote was taken as regards the establishment of the Devicolam Commissionership. Now the vote will be recorded on the principle as to whether the Commissionership is necessary or not.

PRESIDENT: That is not what Mr. Raman Pillai said.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I would like Mr. Raman Pillai to explain his position.

PRESIDENT: I am doing it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): He thinks that either the Commissionership of Devicolam or the Division Assistantship at Peermade can be abolished. I support the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Those who are in favour of old landmarks being maintained intact) cannot persuade democratic assemblies. So I do not know what kind of people we now get. When I saw that the Peishkar's status has been greatly added to, in that respect I wish to accord my full support to the proposal made by my friend Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai. We all remember the days when the Peishkar was an important officer inferior only to the Dewan and that is the reason why he was called Dewan Peishkar. But, Sir, in course of time encroachment after encroachment has been made upon his status, upon his work and upon his powers. Then he was controlling a district in almost all the departments and doing faithful duties of administration, giving satisfaction to Dewans and our Rulers. We now find the Peishkar has come to occupy the position of a glorified *proverthicar*. (*Laughter.*) I am very sorry to make the observation. If in course of time the judicial function is also taken from him, the Peishkar would become a veritable *proverthicar*. (*Laughter.*) Sir, we have heard of Peishkars like Sankunni Menon and Sankarasubbier and other gentlemen also who after having been Peishkars are now fortunately alive, at least one of whom I see before me. At that time the Peishkar had a potentiality and had occasion and opportunity to do very much indeed for the good of the people in his division; but to-day where is the Peishkar in the presence of the Police Commissioner drawing Rs. 1,400; where is the Peishkar

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

drawing Rs. 500 in comparison to the Chief Engineer who draws twice the Peishkar's salary; where is the Peishkar drawing Rs. 500 in comparison with the Excise Commissioner, who is an officer with very much greater position in certain respects regarding patronage and such things. It is in the interests of the country that the Peishkar must be put in his original position. Sir, the Dewan of Travancore is at the head of the land revenue administration. It is after the Dewanee of Bengal, Behar and Orissa was obtained that the East India Company became masters of the Indian Empire. It is the land revenue that is considered the most important item of revenue because it is the surest; and when Dewans and Maha Rajas go on tour, it is the Tahsildar and the Peishkar and not the Chief Engineer or the Excise Commissioner or the Survey Superintendent or any other officer that has to be in charge, so that I fail to see why this division of labour, this unfortunate division of labour should be pushed on in the case of the Peishkars. In the British districts the Collector is a far greater man. As the representative of several departments in a district centre the Collector is really an officer of greater power. I need not say much about it. I may however say that unless the Peishkar's position is resuscitated and he is given real power to do good for the district, I think not only the revenue administration but also all departments of administration are likely to suffer. That does not mean that I have no complaint against the revenue administration. I do not say that they are up to the mark in everything. I find on page 10 of the Administration Report for 1097:

"The percentage of collection under current demand fell from 98·3 in 1096 to 96·2 in 1097 and this was due to the scarcity of money. There was some improvement in the collection of arrears, the percentage having risen from 38·7 in 1096 to 42·1 in 1097."

If there was real scarcity of money, the improvement in the collection of arrears is inexplicable. Such statements which we find in the Administration Reports go to show that the information furnished by different Peishkars is dissimilar in character. There is no consistency or homogeneity. The Peishkar's work has not been satisfactory and I may tell the Council that all these difficulties are due to the circumstance that a man becomes a Peishkar only when the time for his retirement is near.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything more, I support the principle that there should not be both the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner in the Devicolam Division.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The object of this motion is to point out that the expenditure on Division Cutcherries is too much, and my friend suggested that to curtail the expenditure the post of a Division Assistant at Devicolam my be abolished. Another suggestion was that the [Dewan Peishkar may be

given the powers which he possessed of yore. We know that from 1081 the expenditure on division cutcherry has steadily increased. In 1081 the expenditure was Rs. 94,764 and in 1097 Rs. 1,28,583 and we have provided for 1099 Rs. 1,27,070. Though the Division Peishkar was divested of much of his powers and certain other high-paid officers were created—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask Mr. Madhava Variar what powers the Peishkar has been divested of ?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Devaswom.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner*): That is only one.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Maramat and Abkari. And when he was divested of certain powers, other officers on higher salaries were appointed and other departments also were created. I have to offer other suggestions. There are now about 8 Division Assistants and 4 Peishkars. What I wish to suggest is that we do not want the Peishkars, we want only the Division Assistant, and four First Class Magistrates or District Magistrates may be appointed to do magisterial work. Then the executive may be completely separated from the judiciary and the working of the Revenue Department will consequently be very efficient.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion, in so far as he speaks of the Devicolam Commissioner and the First Class Magistrate at Peermade. My humble opinion is that one or other must go, the Devicolam Commissioner by preference. But I do not quite see eye to eye with him in his suggestion with regard to the increasing of the powers of the Dewan Peishkar and adding on the Excise and salt and so on to his duties. This department has been separated from the Revenue Department proper. To bring about the amalgamation again would be a fatal mistake.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I did not suggest the amalgamation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That is to say, tacking it on. I quite agree with Mr. Madhava Variar in his suggestion that the Dewan Peishkars must be done away with. (*Laughter.*) Considering the fact that a Commissioner has been appointed I think the Dewan Peishkar has become a superfluity. It is already rumoured that there is a tug of war between the Dewan Peishkar and the Division Assistant. It is a case of pull baker, pull devil. Both of them are officers of more or less equal status. So I would suggest that the Dewan Peishkars be done away with and Division Assistants replaced and Magisterial work taken away from the Dewan Peishkar.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask him whose assistants they will be if the Dewan Peishkar's post is done away with.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Assistants to the Commissioner to be appointed in the place of the Dewan Peishkar and the Magisterial powers to be exercised be given to different officers as suggested by Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries North*): One feels a great deal of sympathy when one sees that like Mark Twain shedding tears over Adam's grave, Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai sheds tears over the departed glories of the Dewan Peishkars.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I object to that expression. I never shed any tears. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I apologise. But I am afraid these glories of Dewan Peishkars are past recall. We have been moving, the times have been moving and the machinery of Government has been moving and it is not at all possible for anybody to recall those past days. Now that there is the establishment of a Revenue Commissioner, the tendency is for the Dewan Peishkars to be deprived further and further of their importance and become reduced to the status of Assistants to the Revenue Commissioner. There is not much point in crying over these things. But for one reason I am inclined to support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, *viz.*, that the Commissioner of Devicolam and an Assistant in Peermade together are absolutely unnecessary. And we cannot afford to keep up the costly luxuries when there is so much shortage of funds. Therefore for that one reason I support the motion.

THE REV. FATHER KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Thodupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I also beg to support the motion. As Mr. Hoogewerf remarked, in view of the fact that we have a Land Revenue Commissioner I think the Dewan Peishkars are a superfluity. So, it would be high time to do away with them and in their place appoint Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay who will be directly under him and without the magisterial functions. He will be able to have a closer check and stricter watch over the work of the maintenance of the land records done by Tahsildars, so that that portion of the work will have better results. So in view of the fact that we have a Land Revenue Commissioner I would support the suggestion of Mr. Hoogewerf to do away with the Peishkars and have Assistant Commissioners on a smaller pay.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In regard to the question of recruitment of officers mentioned by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, I beg to say that the whole matter is engaging the serious and anxious consideration of the Government and a solution cannot be arrived at in a hurry. The subject is one bristling with difficulties. In regard to European Assistants, we want European Magistrates and they should be Justices of Peace. Hence the European Assistants will have to be maintained at Peermade, until the law is changed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What about the Commissioner?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He is at Devicolam.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How many cases have been filed before the Magistrate at Peermade during the past three years?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the statistics before me.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): None, I believe.

MR. K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Is there any understanding in the agreement between the Travancore Government and the Government of India that a European Justice of the Peace will be maintained at Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Peermade is an important centre containing a large number of Europeans.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Will not one European Magistrate do for Devicolam and Peermade?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Devicolam is distant from Peermade. If direct communication is established, the question whether one would be enough might then be considered.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether it is a fact that many of the European accused object to submit to the Indian Magistrate's jurisdiction?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The House is really glad that the question of changing the system of recruitment is engaging the serious attention of Government. Of course, time there was when our Peishkars were brilliant young men who aspired to become Dewans and some Peishkars did really become Dewans. But things have so degenerated that now Peishkars never hope to become anything more than what they are (*Laughter*). Then, regarding the necessity of European Magistrates I should be glad to hear from Mr. Krishna Pillai whether the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code is also in contemplation in view of the fact that it has been thoroughly amended in British India. I think it is high time that the amendment is taken up so that we can do away with the Commissioner as well as a European Judge in the High Court. Mr. Robinson's reasons for keeping on this Commissionership have not been convincing at all. I do not want to anticipate the official reply when a formal motion is brought for the abolition

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

of the office of the Dewan Peishkar. Then a large array of duties devolving upon the Dewan Peishkar will be trotted out. At any rate, Mr. Robinson told us that the income tax work is shared by the Division Assistant as well and we have also to remember that the criminal work done by the Dewan Peishkars is now being done by the Division Assistant. The work under the Land Acquisition Regulation is also done by the Division Assistant. With these observations, I press the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): It is difficult to know what the proposition is. Some gentlemen are advocating that the Dewan Peishkar should be given more powers, others that the Division Assistants are unnecessary and some are advocating the abolition of the Dewan Peishkar. So I think really the point at issue is about the—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to explain that my suggestion should take effect only in case the Dewan Peishkar is maintained. If that post is going to be abolished I am glad and would not give him any enhanced powers. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The proposition before the House is whether an Assistant at Peermade is necessary.

PRESIDENT: The discussion of the policy.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Division Assistant is necessary at Peermade. No new points have been urged in the course of discussion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know as to whether there is any objection to one of the European residents of that district being invested with the powers of a Justice of the Peace?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not the point for me to settle, that is the point for Government to discuss. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into the other side-issues which have been brought forward regarding Dewan Peishkars. The Devaswom work was only taken from them because the Devaswoms were separated from the Revenue Department. Mr. Velu Pillai compares the work of the Dewan Peishkars in olden days with the Chief Engineer and other officers. I do not know why this has been done and it only proves that he should be given a higher pay. If so I hardly concur with that view. I can only say again that Devicolam and Peermade are very far off and it is necessary to have somebody at the spot and that is the Assistant to the Commissioner and it is not possible to give the Tahsildars the powers of Division Assistants.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes I press it. Because, the Commissioner does not say anything about the Devicolam Commissioner satisfactorily.

PRESIDENT: He has already answered that. I think, with reference to the Division Assistant, he has explained to you briefly the necessity for it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I press the motion to a division.

PRESIDENT: Those who are for the motion will please raise their hands. 26 *for*, 18 *against*. The motion is carried.

Motion 6.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:

6. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for the improvement of markets by Rs. 1,000.*

I have been told by some friends that the cut I propose is too small. Of course I shall be glad if they propose an increase in the cut. So far as I have been able to see, there is no money spent on markets and why there should be an allotment for this purpose I am not able to understand. So I beg to make the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I second the motion. I am one of those who told the mover that the motion is a very important one. I was in the Legislative Council when the Markets Bill was passed and I am one of those who stoutly opposed it. Government at that time assured me, I think Mr. Subba Aiyar said, that it was not a fiscal measure and that the Markets Regulation was in the interests of giving water to the poor people who assembled in the market. We find that the people who resort to the markets are not better treated than cattle. There is very little drinking water; sanitation is not cared for at all. I think this is a disgrace to their administration. I said so in the last session also. For in 1097, while Rs. 62,681 formed the income from markets, the expenditure was only Rs. 2,189. I think, Sir, that the matter is very important and requires looking into. It has been assured on behalf of the Government that the Markets Regulation was passed only with a view to improve the condition of the markets. That the Government should make such a wholesale profit spending absolutely nothing is certainly very hard.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I point out that the official member may speak and then start the general discussion?

PRESIDENT: Yes. If the members should so wish.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think that Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Raman Pillai are entirely in support of the view that we should have more money. Mr. Velu Pillai complains about sanitation and about drinking water facilities not being supplied in the markets. I quite agree with him. The Popular Assembly members have also been complaining that sufficient money is not granted. The Sanitary Commissioner has been making complaints about sanitation and drinking water.

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

Even to a casual observer it would appear that the expenditure under this item is on the increase. The Markets Regulation was passed in the year 1092 but the working of the Regulation came into force only in 1096. It is quite evident that the working of the Regulation is at present only in the initial state. The receipts in 1097 come to Rs. 65,723 and estimates for several markets have already been sanctioned by Government. I might mention the Monday Market for which an estimate of Rs. 6,150 has been prepared, Kesavapuram Rs. 928, etc. Provision has also been made for land acquisition for certain markets in Agastisvaram *viz.*, Rs. 2,520, aggregating in all to Rs. 12,400. Definite proposals have not been received from the Peishkars in respect of several others. The Market Rules provide for the sinking of wells, construction of latrines and putting up of compound walls. The rules apply also to private markets. Infringement of the rules has to be dealt with under the regulation and it is necessary that the public markets should be kept in a decent and sanitary condition if the private markets are to be improved.

I should add that this expenditure is not a recurring item. When all the markets are improved the outlay required thereafter will be only a nominal sum necessary for maintenance.

I quite agree with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai that more money is wanted and it will be spent when we can find funds. Therefore I oppose the motion to reduce the grant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In the light of these observations, I may be permitted to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 7.

The following motion was not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

7. To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for law charges.

Motion 8.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I beg to move the following motion:

8. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for law charges by Rs. 4,000.*

ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയംകൊണ്ടുവന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഈ സംഖ്യ എന്തിനായിട്ടാണ് എന്നറിയുന്നതിനാണ്.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I think Mr. Kumara Pillai only wants to know the items that come under law charges. These items include decree amounts and vakils' fees. As regards vakils' fees, last year we spent, I think, only Rs. 25. We gave the cases to vakils on the spot and this cost us less than if the Sirkar Vakils were to go there. The amount includes also expenditure on account of day-costs. The allotment of Rs. 15,000 provided for the current year was found inadequate. The expenditure on

this is only nominal and is only met under special circumstances and is incurred with the sanction of the Government.

PRESIDENT: It is not nominal; it is Rs. 14,000.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Before we make the expenditure we write to the Government to obtain their formal sanction. The expenditure under vakil's fee is nominal.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): May I point out that the decreed amount should not be entered? Law charges should mean expenses in connection with law and not decreed amounts. When decreed they ought to be shown separately.

PRESIDENT: In the budget it is shown like that. Charges connected with law suits are not separately shown.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether he has got a list of the amounts decreed against Government showing what amount is necessary for the coming year?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not got the information ready. But Rs. 15,000 sanctioned in 1098 was not found to be sufficient. I have not got the full details however; but I can get them and give to Mr. Krishna Aiyar if he likes in the evening. It is only the inevitable charges we have to meet, because of the decrees of courts, that we have provided for now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I put in a word, Sir, by way of explanation? It is not always possible to know what exactly is the decreed amount that the Government will have to pay in the course of the year. Sometimes application is made for the payment of the amount and sometimes no application is made by the parties for execution of the decrees.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Why should the Government wait for the application being made?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Sirkar Vakil sends up the case to the Land Revenue Commissioner to pay the amount in the court only when an application is made. The old practice was that every time execution was ordered, the amount could be paid only after Government sanction. Now the Land Revenue Commissioner pays the amount to avoid delay. That is why the amount is provided for here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Would it cover the decree charges of other departments as well?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No.

PRESIDENT: Most suits are against the Land Revenue Department. Are you satisfied, Mr. Kumara Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to this question I have to say a word. In the last sittings of the Council I recollect to have interpellated Government calling attention

[President.]

to the amounts including costs decreed against Government for the last 12 years in civil suits on the file of the Kottayam District Court; and with reference to that, the Government answered that the amounts decreed including cost in suits decided against Sirkar came to Rs. 26,000 by way of costs and damages to the parties. That works on an average to about Rs. 2,000 per year. The Kottayam District Court is only one of the six District Courts in the State and if we take this as a criterion as to the cost and damages, the amount the Government will have to pay may come to Rs. 12,000 a year. Now in some of this litigation, it may be clearly seen, if the Government look into the question, that much of the defence set up by the Government is feeble and untenable. The defence should in many cases never have been started at all.

For example, I would cite the case of a Division Peishkar dealing with a *proverthicar* absconding with survey instruments and chains. At once the Dewan Peishkar issues process for attaching the *proverthicar's tarwad* properties. The junior members put in claim petitions and moved the court. Any person who has a moderate knowledge of the *marumakkathayam* law would not take steps to realise the money by attaching the tarwad property. Ultimately the suit was decreed against Government by the court. Such are instances in which Government and their advisors should think twice before they take any such steps. I even ventured to request the Government to ascertain whether the agents who are responsible for such losses should not be called upon to pay the cost decreed against Government. We have got such instances of unnecessary litigation indulged in by the Government. In view of such steps taken by the Government without proper legal advice and proper consideration bestowed upon the question, especially in view of the fact that the Government are first of all served with a notice under Section 409, Civil Procedure Code, as a matter of *locus penitentiae*, it is strange that public funds should be utilised for such purposes. In view of that fact, the question deserves to be gone into. In the Quilon Court I have been told by people there that in spite of the *tiruppuvaram* amount mentioned in the *patta*, Government do not consider the matter and obtain the advice of the legal advisors even when the cases are filed against the Government. Ultimately the Government finds that they have no defence whatsoever and the court decrees the amount against the Government with costs. In such cases the question arises whether the Government should not take into consideration the part played by those who are responsible for bringing about this unpleasant situation. In view of such facts I would support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion for the reduction of the amount.

PRESIDENT: I can give you the assurance on behalf of Government. My position is very peculiar here. Government is as much as possible for them, looking into these abuses and I believe—I have not got the figures in my mind—that the figures show that litigation against Government is going down. This abuse, however, cannot be rectified in one day or in one year. It may take some time.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I say a word by way of explanation? Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's interpellation was referred to my office and the Sirkar Vakil has just submitted his explanation and made suggestions as to how the charges could be reduced. That was received only ten days ago and as soon as I am in a position to look into it I will do the needful.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I only want the matter to be considered.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻവലിക്കുന്നു

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 9 to 12.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,600 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,600.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

10. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 69,622 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 6,960.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

11. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,50,999 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

12. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,446, for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 1,540.

Motion 13.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

13. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,95,800 for Proverthi Cutcherries by Rs. 100.

My object in sending up this motion is to draw the attention of Government to the unwieldy nature of the extent of the various *pakuthies*. In the G. O. reviewing the final report of the Settlement Peishkar on the Settlement of the State the following remarks were made:

"The *proverthi* was the unit of the revenue administration prior to the settlement. It embraced an average area of 27 square miles and was, therefore, considered to be far too large to serve as a unit. Accordingly, each *proverthi* was ordered to be sub-divided into *pakuthies* or villages, during the survey, but all the *proverthies* were not so subdivided, nor were the instructions issued for the determination of the territorial or administrative units generally kept in view, except in a few taluks such as Tovala, Agastiswarom, Trivandrum, Chirayinkil etc. The *pakuthi* has now been definitely adopted as the unit. But it varies in extent from 0·81 to 203 sq. miles and has an average area of 11·9 sq. miles, which is at least twice as much as the average area originally proposed. ....His Highness' Government recognise that one of the first things which will have to be done, antecedent to the next general survey and settlement, will be a careful revision of the boundaries of several of the *pakuthies* and to some extent of that of the taluks also. Experience has shown that, in the majority of cases, the *pakuthi* is now a satisfactory unit. There are, however, several *pakuthies* whose size makes efficient

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

administration by single village agency absolutely impossible. The following are typical cases :—Anchal 203·54 sq. miles), Pathanapuram (141·58 sq. miles), Kanjirapalli (101·22 sq. miles)..........The Government, therefore, feel that, well in advance of the next general survey and settlement, a careful revision of the boundaries of the *pakuthies* will be necessary.

We have been told that much of the confusion in the land records maintenance work is due to slackness in the taluk office. What I wish to place before the Council is that the slackness is really in the *pakuthies* and not in the taluks whether in the matter of *pokkuvaravu* or *poramboke*s. In all these, steps have to be taken by the Proverthicar and his staff. Considering the extent of the *pakuthies* which varies from 203 sq. miles to ·81 sq. miles, I think it is the unwieldy extent of the *pakuthies* that makes it impossible for the *proverthicars* to cope with the work that is entrusted to them. The multifarious duties which the Tahsildar is said to be performing are practically done by the *proverthicar* and his staff. The learned Law Member told us last year that the Tahsildar may be asked to furnish statistics regarding snakes. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That was what Mr. Krishnan Nair said.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not hear him.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf says he does not hear you. Will you please repeat the words, Mr. Raman Pillai ?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Snakes. (*Laughter.*) The *proverthicar* will have to go and count the snakes. (*Laughter.*) And besides that, the House will remember that half the time, that is six months in the year, will be taken up in kist collection and a good deal of time will be taken up for attending on officers. So that there is very little time to attend to his own work. Besides he has to maintain a number of registers—13 registers and 33 accounts. As such, I submit that it is no wonder that the land records maintenance work fell into such a chaotic condition; and it is no wonder also that the *proverthicars* did not attempt to clear off the arrears. Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the absolute necessity of cutting up these *pakuthies*, increasing their number if possible by 200 per cent. so that it may be possible for the *proverthicar* and his staff to cope with the land revenue and other works.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, Mr. Raman Pillai states that the arrears in the Land Revenue Department can be traced down to the *pakuthi* staff. He points out that they have a lot of work to do, and he gives one instance of a particular work which was absolutely impossible for any single man to carry through. Well, it appears to me that these are all arguments for an increase of their pay and not for a reduction. The splitting up of the present *pakuthies* will have to be done some day. I do not see that any case has been made out for reducing the grant of Rs. 2,95,800 asked for under Proverthi Cutcherries.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, I take it, is not against increasing the grant, provided it is expended in a proper fashion. I asked a question at the last meeting of the Council about the condition of the *Proverthi* Cutcherries. The *proverthicars* are not doing their work properly; and as far as I can see, it is because they who have been occupying positions of influence and importance in the *pakuthi* have now been brought down, consistently of course with the degradation of the Dewan Peishkar's position. I have been trying to find out the position of similar officers in other departments—foresters, petty officers, head constables etc. Time was when the *proverthicar* was an officer of a higher status than any of these officers of today. The other officers' pay was increased and their status also was raised but the *proverthicar* has been given nothing. The result is that the heart of the *proverthicar* is not in his work. We have heard complaints about encroachment cases, about delay in the disposal of *puduval* cases and applications for agricultural loans. As my friend Mr. Raman Pillai put it, the *proverthicar* is now everybody's servant. When the Tahsildar goes on circuit or when the Dewan Peishkars or higher officers or State Guests go on circuit, unfortunately this universal servant is in the position of god Mercury. (*Laughter.*) Unless his pay is raised, the land revenue administration will not get on. For this reason, I support Mr. Raman Pillai's motion

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): പാർവ്വത്ത്യക്കാരന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയേണ്ടതു് അത്ത്യാവശ്യമാണു. പാർവ്വത്ത്യകാരന്മാർ ആണു് പകുതി കരം പിരിച്ചു ഒടുക്കുന്നതു്. എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും രണ്ടുമാസംകൊണ്ടു പണം പിരിച്ചു് അടയ്ക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ പാർവ്വത്ത്യകാരന്മാർ കൈയിൽ നിന്നു പണം കെട്ടി വയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ളതു് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. പണം കെട്ടിവച്ചു ഉടൻ അവരെ അവിടെ നിന്നും സ്ഥലം മാററുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ സ്ഥലം മാററിയാൽ ആ പകുതികളിലുള്ള ജോലി ചെയ്യാൻ പ്രയാസമായിത്തീരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി പാർവ്വത്ത്യകാരന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നോക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. പാർവ്വത്ത്യകാരന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതാതു പകുതികളിൽ അതിനു ശേഷിയുള്ള ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കീട്ടുവേണം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ. സ്വദേശിയായ ഒരു പാർവ്വത്ത്യകാരനെ നിയമിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ പണപ്പിരിവിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നടന്നുവരുന്നതായി തോന്നുന്നു. സ്വദേശികളെത്തന്നെയാണു് പാർവ്വത്ത്യജോലിയിൽ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. അവരുടെ ചുമതലകൾക്കും ജോലികൾക്കും അനുസരണമായി അവർക്കു ശമ്പളക്കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

PRESIDENT: May I tell you for your information that the *proverthicars* in British India—headmen as they are called—are not more

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

respectable than the *proverthicars* here? If at all, it is the other way.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ampalapuzha*): I rise to sympathise with the *proverthicar*. I have seen the *proverthicars* of the older variety and the *proverthicars* of the new variety. The *proverthicars* of the older variety were a sight to see. But the present day *proverthicar*, I am sorry to note, is growing more and more emaciated and as far as possible tries to fight shy of his work. This may be illustrated by a reference to the number of leave applications put in by *proverthicars* when the tours of great persons are expected throughout the State. The reasons for this, more or less, may be imagined rather than explained.

Another difficulty which has been pointedly brought to the notice of the Council by Mr. Kumara Pillai was that the *proverthicar* has to collect the *kist* amount and pay it within a specified date. It may be that in the village all the collections might not have been made but all the same the *proverthicar* will have to pay the amount as long as he wants to cling on to his office. In such a contingency he advances money or he borrows money from others and advances it.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I ask the member whether he has got specific instances?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes, I have. Here is Mr. Krishna Aiyar from whom money has been borrowed and paid into the treasury.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Out of consideration they pay from their own hands but they are paid afterwards; this is a sort of private arrangement.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So much so, if he is disliked, the Tahsildar, as soon as he finds that the *proverthicar* is in a position of risk, gets him transferred from the *pakuthy*. The *proverthicar* unfortunately cannot explain things; it is too late. Such things will take place and the constant shifting of the *proverthicar* is a piece of suffering borne in silence which tends to weaken his work and leads to his ruin. In view of that fact, to raise the status of the *proverthicar* he should be made to understand that, so long as he discharges his duty, he is not liable to be shifted so often like a shuttlecock. In this view I sympathise with the motion and support it.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പാൎവ്വത്ത്യകാരന്മാൎക്കു ശമ്പളം പോരെന്നും അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ദ . നീയമാണെന്നും പറയുന്നതിൽ ആദ്യത്തെതിനോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവരിൽ പലരും കൃഷിക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പലവിധത്തിൽ പണം ധാരാളമായി കരസ്ഥമാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു് എന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃ

ത്തിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ അവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി ദയനീയമെന്നു പറയാമോ? ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു പണം വാങ്ങുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ പെട്ടവരാണിവർ. പുറമ്പോക്കും, പുതുവലും, പോക്കുവരവും ഒക്കെ ഇവരുടെ ആദായമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളാണ്. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രായേണ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപദ്രവം വരാതെ ഇവരെ നിയന്ത്രിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ശമ്പളം കൂട്ടിക്കൊടുക്കയും പിന്നെയും ജനങ്ങളോടു പണം വാങ്ങുവാൻ ഇടയാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അതു് അധിക കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഇവരോടിടപെടാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. സാധുകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു ഇവരിൽനിന്നു ധാരാളം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. ചുരുക്കം ചിലർ നല്ലവർ കാണും. അധികവും കുഴപ്പംതന്നെ. പെൻഷൻ പററി കഴിയുമ്പോഴേക്ക് ഇവർക്കെത്രസ്വത്തുണ്ടെന്നു നോക്കിയാൽ മേൽപ്രസ്താവിച്ചതിന്റെ വാസ്തവം വെളിപ്പെടും. സാധുക്കളായ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ കഷ്ടതയെ വിചാരിച്ചാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു. പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : Sir, I have also been familiar with the old order of *Proverthicars* who were exercising magisterial and various other kinds of jurisdiction and occasionally even inflicting stripes on defaulters. It is undeniable that the work of the *pakuthi* staff is unsatisfactory and that the large volume of arrears in *pokkuvaravu* cases is due to the unsatisfactory nature of the *pakuthi* staff. There are nearly 40,000 to 50,000 *pokkuvaravu* cases, and that has given rise to a lot of confusion in the administration of the department. The chief reason for this is the unwieldly nature of the *pakuthies*. I understand that the *pakuthies* in Cochin and Malabar have been reorganised so that on an average they are only 4 or 5 square miles in area and have a population of between 4 and 5 thousand and the amount of revenue for collection also somewhere there. The *pakuthies* in Travancore have not been formed on any reasonable basis. The settlement classifier who happened to squat in a particular locality pitched upon some place and that has been the genesis of the present *pakuthies*. There is no rhyme or reason in the extent or formation of the modern *pakuthies*. It is high time that Government took up the question of the reorganisation of the *pakuthies* even if it involves a very considerable increase in expenditure. I am sure that no member of this House, who has got experience of the troubles arising out of the unwieldy nature of the *pakuthies* will grudge this at all. The most crying reform that is now necessary is a fresh re-arrangement of the area, population and revenue of each *pakuthi* so that the *pakuthies* may be made manageable.

Recently a number of *pakuthi* accountants have been deputed to do work with the Assistant Tahsildars; and the Tahsildars have reported to the Peishkars who in return have reported to Government that they should be sent back to the *pakuthies* and that

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

unless it is done the work in the *pakuthies* and taluks will break down. In spite of that, I do not know whether Government found it possible to comply with this request of the Peishkars who think the reversion of these accountants to their respective *pakuthies* indispensable. Most of the *proverthicars* are now going about begging the people to pay *kist* in proper time. I have been making enquiries of them when I find that they try thus to collect revenue. If they do not move out but issue demand notices in hundreds and thousands they find that work more arduous than going about for *kist* collection. They say the *kist* could not be collected if they merely remain at home. They have followed the lesser of the two evils and chosen to go about themselves and try somehow to induce people to pay *kist* by hook or by crook. I am told that the Dewan Peishkar of Quilon has recently issued instructions that the *pakuthi* staff are not to go about to collect *kist* but should remain at their office and only issue demand notices to the defaulters. If this rule is strictly enforced, there will be an inevitable fall in the collection of revenue for one or two years. It may result in considerable arrears of revenue; but this will be so only for a year or two. There must be a system that must be strictly carried out without any departure from the rule. The *pakuthi* staff and work require thorough overhauling ; and I hope that Government will seriously take it up and put it on a satisfactory basis. For these reasons, I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Sir, I have not forgotten my experiences of the *proverthicar* which I had about two years ago. Last time, when I was speaking about the Assistant Tahsildar, I said that he was a gentleman. I am afraid I cannot say the same about the *Proverthicar*. As I said, I feel very bitter even now. The whole fabric of the Revenue Department, as stated by Messrs. Raman Pillai and K. C. Mamman Mapillai, rests on the *Proverthicars*. If an application for grant of land or water is made to the Dewan Peishkar, it is sent to the Tahsildar who sends it on to the *Proverthicar* and it is in the hands of the *Proverthicar* that the thing has to be made or unmade. He can do or undo many things. I am speaking from experience. He must be propitiated. He must be made a big man and so on and so forth, as otherwise the whole report will be that the land or water cannot be granted. The *Proverthicar* is a very powerful factor in the locality. I, therefore, quite agree that something must be done either to make the *pakuthies* smaller or increase the pay of the *Proverthicars* so that the land revenue administration which has fallen into a chaotic state, as has been represented, may be properly attended to. The *proverthicar* is the groundwork of the land revenue administration. Once the foundation is made all right, the rest will naturally follow. Hence I support this motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is true that some of the *pakuthies* are very extensive and that some

are rather too large to be managed by a single village agency The question of splitting up *pakuthies* cannot be taken up now, for it involves resurvey, preparation of maps and rewriting of settlement registers. It cannot be done by a mere executive order.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know from the Chief Secretary whether it could not be done by a rearrangement of *muries*.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We do not go by *muries*; we go by *khandams*.

PRESIDENT: The preparation of fresh maps is also necessary.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A regular survey of *khandams* is necessary before a *pakuthi* can be split up.

Proverthicars were formerly getting Rs. 15, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25. Now they get Rs. 18 and Rs. 24.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know from the Chief Secretary the pay of the Petty Officers in the Excise department.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It goes up to Rs. 28.

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Of a Police Head Constable?

PRESIDENT: In any case it is not more than Rs 25.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A *proverthicar* can now rise up to Rs. 25. That cannot be considered a very low pay in a country like Travancore.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know the number of *proverthicars* getting Rs. 25 each?

PRESIDENT: Their number is in the budget, and also the total number of *proverthicars*.

MR. GEORGE (*Financil Secretary to Government*): There are 60 on Rs. 24 each.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 349 on Rs. 18. As regards the arrears which have accumulated, I may say that they came into existence from the date of completion of the settlement. The question of land records maintenance was not seriously or systematically taken up immediately after the settlement. That is the reason why arrears accumulated and special arrangements were rendered necessary. It was not because *proverthicars* and accountants were not doing their current work properly. These arrears have accumulated owing to the length of the interval between the survey and the settlement.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Chief Secretary say why there has been reduction in the percentage of collection of land revenue during the last two years?

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reasons are given in the Administration Report.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary tell us whether, in his experience as Tahsildar and as Peishkar, it has not come to his knowledge that *proverthicars* advance money either from their own pockets or by borrowing for paying the *kist* amount to the treasury?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not come across any such instances. On the other hand, I have strictly prohibited them from doing any such thing.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has the Chief Secretary any information to the effect that *proverthicars* are in the habit of doing so?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not deny having heard like that; but I have no personal knowledge about the matter. Perhaps some *proverthicars* do that to make up the amount of *kist* at the end of the year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I may tell the Chief Secretary that I have come across numerous instances in which *proverthicars* have done so and I am prepared to tell the Land Revenue Commissioner of those instances.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Probably they must be idle *proverthicars*. They deserve to be punished. If a *pattadar* refuses to pay *kist*, the *proverthicars* need not go to him at all for its collection. The law allows them to proceed against defaulters. The *proverthicars* can remain at their offices and realise the *kist* by issuing demand notices.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): But Government do not allow them to remain in their own places.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They can realise the *kist* by following the procedure and taking the steps prescribed by the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, the first point raised is the splitting up of the *pakuthies*. There is the necessity for the splitting up of the *pakuthies* and in some cases of combining them. The necessity for revising the boundaries of *pakuthies* was suggested by the Settlement Dewan Peishkar in his final report on the settlement operations and the same admitted in the Government review on that report from which Mr. Raman Pillai quoted. Subsequently, the same question was considered in a Revenue and Settlement Conference of 1920, held by the Dewan in which the question was discussed in all its details. At that conference also, the need for splitting up *pakuthies* and clubbing the smaller ones was recognised, but the thing cannot be attempted at once for the reasons explained. The minimum area of a *pakuthi* here is little less than

one square mile and the maximum about 200 square miles so that there is no question of the necessity that exists for both the processes *viz.*, the amalgamation and the bifurcation of *pakuthies.*

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If it is difficult to split the *pakuthies*, may I know whether it is possible to increase the number of *proverthicars* in the more unwieldy *pakuthies*?

Mr. T. P. RAMSUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It may be possible, but it would not work properly. There should be one official who should be held personally responsible for the whole work of a *pakuthi*. But as I said, the ideal of having *pakuthies* of small dimensions cannot be immediately attained for the reasons mentioned. We have a settlement register for each *pakuthi* and if a *pakuthi* is going to be split up, we will have to prepare for each of the divided *pakuthies* separate maps; the settlement and other registers prescribed by the Land Revenue Manual for each *pakuthi* will have to be re-written and completed. For these reasons, it would not be immediately practicable. Government have considered this question and have come to the conclusion that this work can be taken up only at the next Settlement. As I said, simultaneously with the bifurcation of unwieldy *pakuthies*, the combination of *pakuthies* will also have to be done. There are only very few of them which can be clubbed together.

As regards the pay of the *proverthicars*, prior to the re-organisation, there were 5 on Rs. 25; 49 on Rs. 20; and 353 on Rs. 15 each; but at present there are 60 *proverthicars* on Rs. 24 and 349 on Rs. 18. Their pay has been improved and they are now being paid liberally. The five men who were getting Rs. 25 are now given personal allowance of of Re. 1 in addition to their pay. As regards further revision and betterment of their pay, that should come by and by.

In regard to the transfer of *proverthicars*, I may say that this also was considered at the above-mentioned conference and Government have issued Circular orders to the Peishkars to see that they are not transferred except for cogent reasons. It was also suggested that the accountants and peons diverted for land records maintenance work should be sent back.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have been misunderstood in regard to the pay of the *proverthicars*. Sir, it was not part of my resolution that the pay of the *proverthicars* should be increased. My contention was that the *pakuthies* should be cut up and re-formed. The appointment of additional staff in existing *pakuthies* would not help matters. The only solution I suggested was the increasing of the number of *pakuthies* by cutting up the existing *pakuthies*. I am not quite convinced that it is not possible to increase the *pakuthies* by regrouping the *khandams*. Enadimangalam *pakuthi* consists of 100 *khandams*. My suggestion is whether every five *khandams* could not be made into a separate *pakuthi*. The new *pakuthies* may be called Enadimangalam South and Enadimangalam North and so on.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The survey numbers will not be continuous.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether Mr. Raman Pillai is in favour of giving any increase of pay to the *proverthicars*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No. I will not pay them a copper cash more.

I do not press the motion to a division.

PRESIDENT: I have some experience in British India and here; but I do not think it is necessary that I should say anything about this in view of the fact that Mr. Raman Pillai is withdrawing the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Council rose for lunch at 2-20 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

Motions 14 to 16.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the following three motions are identical:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:—

14. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars.) Rs. 33,869.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:—

15. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars). Rs. 33,869.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:—

16. To omit the allotment of Rs. 25,289 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, will you please make your motion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I beg to make the following motion:

14. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for Land Records establishment by (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars) Rs. 33,869.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്താൽ കാര്യനടപ്പിനു തടസ്ഥമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നോ അതിനാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കണമെന്നോ എനിക്കുദ്ദേശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഭൂമിസംരക്ഷണജോലിയുടെ കുടിശികകാര്യം കഴിയുംവേഗത്തിൽ തീർക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഏററവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്നു ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ എം. ജോലി കൊണ്ടു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫലം കിട്ടുന്നതല്ലെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ചിലവു ദുർവ്വ്യയമായി തീരു

മെന്നും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമല്ലെന്നു പറയാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഉൽകൃഷ്ടപരീക്ഷാവിജയികളായ അനേകം ചെറുപ്പക്കാർ അതിലിപ്പോൾ ജോലിചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. അവക്കു ദോഷമായി പറയേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു മനസ്താപമുണ്ട്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളുടെ കുടിശികകൾ തീക്കുന്നതിനായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞ ൧൫ വർഷങ്ങളായി പല ശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുവരികയാണ്. ഈ ജോലിക്കായി ൧൦൮൨-ൽ താലൂക്കു സർവ്വെയറന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചു. അവരുടെ ജോലികൾ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടപ്പോൾ അവരെ സഹായിക്കാനായി തൽകാല അക്കൌണ്ടന്മാരെ കൂടി നിയമിച്ചു. അതിലേക്കായി അനേകായിരം രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയതിലും പ്രയോജനകരമായ ഫലം കിട്ടാതെ വന്നു. അതിൽപിന്നീടാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ നിയമനമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇവരെക്കൊണ്ടു എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളെ തൃപ്തികരമായി നടത്തിക്കൊള്ളാമെന്നാണ് ഇന്നും ഗവർൺമെൻറ ബലമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നത്.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറതഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നമാതിരിയിൽ രണ്ടു വർഷംകൊണ്ട് എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ കുടിശികകൾ തീൎന്നുപോകുമെന്നാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. പുതുവൽ കേസ്സുകളെപററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൫ അവസാനത്തിൽ ൧൯,൩൪൫-ം ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൧൦,൨൨൯-ം, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൧൦,൨൬൪-ം കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശികയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണാം.

പുറംപോക്കുകേസ്സുകളെപററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൧,൫൦൧-ം, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൧,൬൩൭-ം, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൪,൦൮൧-ം കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശിക ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി കാണാം. പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകളെപററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൧൦൯൫-ൽ ൩൩,൭൩൪-ം, ൧൦൯൬-ൽ ൩൭,൨൦൭-ം, ൧൦൯൭-ൽ ൪൪,൧൭൦൦ കേസ്സുകൾ കുടിശിക ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതായികാണാം. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ കുടിശികകൾ എത്രകൊല്ലങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു തീരുമെന്നുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോൾ ആക്കും നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ തരമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

അസിസ്റ്റൻറ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർഇപ്പോൾനടത്തിവരുന്നഎൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ കൊണ്ട് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തു റീസർവ്വേനടത്താതെസാധിക്കാമെന്നാണഗവമ്മെൻറ ആശിക്കുന്നതു. ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ഈ സംക

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ല്ലം നല്ലതുതന്നെ എന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംകല്പം സാധിച്ചുകിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ ഇനിയും രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വർഷംകൂടിവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ ആരും ആക്ഷേപിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ചുവടെ വിവരിക്കുന്നകാരണങ്ങളാൽ അതുസാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നുബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു പ്രധാനമായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളിൽ ഒന്നു പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതാണ്. ൧൦൭൩-മുതൽ ൧൦൭൮-വരെ ൭,൧൭൯ പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും, ൧൦൯൭-ലും ൧൦൯൮-ൽ ൧൦ മാസങ്ങളിലും ൧൧,൩൩൪ കേസ്സുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഇത്രയും കേസ്സുകൾ അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി സമ്മതിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ പുറംപോക്കുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതും കേസ്സുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതും മറ്റുമായനടപടികളെ പറ്റി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാൻ അവസരങ്ങൾ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്. താലൂക്കുസർവ്വേയറന്മാരുടെ കാലങ്ങളിൽ അവരും പകുതികളിലെ അക്കൌണ്ടന്മാരും കൂടിചെയ്തുവന്നിരുന്ന ഈ ജോലി, അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ നിയമനത്തോടു കൂടി പകുതിഅക്കൌണ്ടന്മാരുടെ ചുമതലയായിതീന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഈ പരമാത്ഥം അധികൃതന്മാരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ തുറന്നുസമ്മതിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാവുകയില്ലായിരിക്കാമെങ്കിലും അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. അനേകകാലത്തെപഴക്കവും പരിചയവും ഉള്ള സർവ്വേയറന്മാർ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾക്കു മതിയാകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തിന്മേൽ പകരം നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു സർവ്വേയുമായിമൂന്നുമാസത്തെ പരിചയമെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളു എന്നുള്ളത് മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിന്റെ ദോഷത്താൽ, റിക്കാർട്ടുകളിൽകാണുന്ന പുറംപോക്കുകൾക്കു പല കുഴപ്പങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെ തീർത്തു ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനു മൂന്നുമാസത്തെ പരിശീലനമുള്ളവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ അനേകവഴിത്തടങ്ങൾ, ഇടവഴികൾ, തോടുകൾ ഇവ പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടാതെ വിട്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ടു. കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ പിന്നീടു പലതും പുറമ്പോക്കുകളായി തീ

ന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ കൊണ്ട് ഇവയെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കുകളിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കോതയാർ പ്രാജക്ടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ചാനലുകൾക്കായി പൊന്നുംവിലയും കൊടുത്ത് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമികൾക്കു ശരിയായ റിക്കാട്ടുകൾ ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് കാണുന്നത്. ചാനലുകൾക്ക് എടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള പല സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കും കരം കുറവെഴുതികിട്ടാതെ മുൻ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ കരംതീർത്തു നഷ്ടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾകൊണ്ട് ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിച്ചുകിട്ടാൻ വഴിയുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു യോജിപ്പായി മറ്റൊരു സംഗതികൂടി നടന്നുവരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിപ്രകാരം ഇപ്പോൾ ഭൂമികളിൽകാണുന്ന കിടപ്പനുസരിച്ചു പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ സർവെ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. പല കാരണങ്ങളാലും പേരിൽ പതിവു ഭൂമികൾ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ അറിഞ്ഞും അറിയാതെയും പുറമ്പോക്കു ഭൂമികളോടു ചേൎന്നുകിടക്കുന്നതു സാധാരണമാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഭൂമികളെ ഇന്നുകാണുന്ന സ്ഥിതികളിൽ പുറംപോക്കായി സർവെ ചെയ്തു കണക്കാക്കുന്നതായാൽ അടുത്ത ഭൂമികളുടെ അളവ് ഒരിക്കലും യോജിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതാണ്. മേൽ വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ ആശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ക്ഌപ്തകാലത്തിനകം തീൎന്നുകിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ആ ജോലികൾകൊണ്ട് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാൎക്ക് അടുത്ത പ്രധാനജോലിയായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകൾ തീൎക്കുന്നതാണ്. കണ്ടെഴുത്തുകാലത്തും അതിൽപിന്നീടും പോക്കുവരവും അതു സംബന്ധമായ സബ് ഡിവിഷൻ വേലകളും നടത്താതെ മിക്കവാറും ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതിന്റെ ഫലമായി പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകൾ ഓരോ ആണ്ടിലും വൎദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ൯൭-ലെ അവസാനത്തിൽ അവ ൪൮,൫൭൦ കേസ്സുകളായി വൎദ്ധിക്കയും ചെയ്തു.

പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകൾ ഇങ്ങിനെ വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിൽ ഗവമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകമായി പതിയാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനും കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളതു അവയിൽ നിന്നും ആദായമില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നു. പോക്കുവരവു ചെയ്യുന്ന ജോലി എത്രയോ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ളതും, അതില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ പല വ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾക്കും വഴിയു

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ണ്ടാകുന്നതുമാണ്. ഈ കാരണത്താലാണ് ഈ അധികാരത്തെ മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരിൽ സമപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നതു. ഇപ്പോഠം പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകഠം തീക്കുന്നതിനു തഹശീൽദാർ അസിസ്റ്റൻറുതഹശീൽദാർ, ഡിപ്പ്യൂട്ടിതഹശീൽദാർ, ഇവരെ ഭരമേല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതോടുകൂടി ൻ ൈൽ ർന്നു, ഫ വ്യന്യ കേസ്സുകഠം തീർപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ പലരും അധികാരികളായി തീർത്തിട്ടുള്ള പോക്കുവരവുകേസ്സുകളും അതുസംബന്ധമായി നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള സബ്ഡിവിഷൻ വേലകളും അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിന് എത്രത്തോളം സഹായമായിത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോഠം നിശ്ചയിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിസംബന്ധമായി ഇപ്പോഠം നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന സർവ്വേ തന്നെ ഐകരൂപ്യമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. പകുതിജീവനക്കാരുടെ അളവു, താലൂക്കുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേതിനു യോജിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഇവരുടെ അളവുകഠം ലാൻഡുറിക്കാർട്ടുസൂപ്രണ്ടിൻെറ അളവുകഠക്കു യോജിക്കാതെവരുന്നു. ഈ കാരണത്താൽ പകുതിജീവനക്കാരിലും അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരിലും പലക്കും പല ദോഷങ്ങഠക്കും ഇടയായിത്തീന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൽ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള സർവ്വേയ്ക്കു പല ന്യൂനതകളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ആ സർവ്വേറിക്കാർട്ടുകളും ഭൂമിയുടെ കിടപ്പുമായി പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും യോജിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതു സർവ്വസാധാരണമാണ്. തിരുവനന്തപുരം താലൂക്കിൽതന്നെ രണ്ടാമട, അഞ്ചാമട ഈ പകുതികളിൽ ഇതിലേക്കു ധാരാളം ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങഠം എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സർവ്വേചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ നിലങ്ങളുടെ അളവുകഠം എപ്പോഴും ശരിയായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ പകുതികളിലുള്ള പല നിലങ്ങളുടേയും ആകൃതിയും സർവ്വേപ്ലാനുമായി യോജിക്കാതെയിരിക്കുന്നു. നിലങ്ങളുടെ സംഗതിയിൽതന്നെ ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പ്ലാനിലും, സെററിൽമെൻറുരജിസ്റ്ററിലും കാണുന്നതായ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത സ്ഥലത്തുചെന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോഠം ഇരട്ടം കുറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നതായ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതാണ്, ഈ സ്ഥിതികളിൽ ഇപ്പോഠം നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികഠംകൊണ്ടു ഭൂമിസംരക്ഷണറിക്കാർട്ടുകഠം ശരിയാകുന്നത് എങ്ങനെയാണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

ഇപ്പോഠം നടന്നുവരുന്ന എൽ ആർ. എം. ജോലികൊണ്ടു ലാൻഡു റിക്കാർട്ടുകളിലുള്ള കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെ തീക്കുന്നതിനോ അതിനാൽ അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനോ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു

തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ ഫലമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ൧൦൯൩-ൽ ൯൯,൭൪൭ രൂപായും ൧൦൭൬ ൬ ൧൦ മാസങ്ങളിൽ ൧,൨൭,൪൮൪ രൂപയും ആദായമുണ്ടെന്നു മിസ്റ്റർ അനന്തനാരായണയ്യർ കഴിഞ്ഞ തവണ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആദായത്തെ കണക്കാക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകളിൽ ചുമത്തുന്ന നിരോധനകരം കുടിശിക ഇവ തീക്കുന്നതിനു നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്ത കുറവെഴുതി വരുന്ന തുക, സിവിൾ കോടതികളിലും റവന്യൂ ആഫീസ്സുകളിലും തിരിയെ കൊടുക്കാൻ പറയുന്ന തുക, ഇവകൂടി വരവിൽ നിന്നും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ ഫലമായി സിവിൽ കേസ്സുകൾ കൊടുക്കാനായി എത്ര നോട്ടീസ്സുകൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും എത്ര സിവിൽ കേസ്സുകൾ ഫൈയലായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കണക്കുകൾ എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ മുമ്പെ നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള കണ്ടെഴുത്തിൻെറ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളും ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്.

എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവിനെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ൯൩ൽ ൫൬,൦൨൪ രൂപയും ൯൬ൽ ൯൫,൮൦ രൂപായും ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ളതായും ൯൭ൽ ൧,൮൬,൮൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാകുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതായും കാണുന്നു. ഇത്രയും രൂപാ ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കി എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിനടത്തിയാലും ആയത് അടുത്ത കണ്ടെഴുത്തിനു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ വലുതായൊരു തുക ചിലവാക്കി അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

൧൦൭൫ മുതൽ ൧൦൯൩ വരെ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾക്കു ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതിനു തക്കവണ്ണം പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ലെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുപോലെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതുപോലെ ഇന്നത്തെ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളേയും അതിൻെറ ചിലവുകളേയും പററി മറെറാരവസരത്തിൽ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നതിനോ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നതിനൊ ഇടയാകരുതെന്നു കരുതീട്ടാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞയാണ്ടിൽ ഈ സമയത്തും ഈയാണ്ടിലും അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ പോലെയുള്ള കൂടിയ ശമ്പളക്കാർ ഈ ജോലിക്ക് ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു വാദിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനോടു ആക്കും ഒരു വിരോധത്തിനും കാരണമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാര

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

ന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്തു വരുന്ന എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയെപ്പററി വല്ല തെററിദ്ധാരണകളും ഉള്ള പക്ഷം അവയെ നീക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഫൈനാൻസ കമ്മിററിക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള നോട്ട്സ കിട്ടണമെന്ന് ഞങ്ങളിൽ പലരും ഒന്നാമതായി ഗവർൺമെൻറിനോട് എഴുതി അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ നോട്ട്സ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു തരാൻനിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നുള്ള മറുപടിയാണ് കിട്ടിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഫൈനാൻസ കമ്മിററിക്കു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള നോട്ട്സ തരാതിരുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന മാതിരിയുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനു ൫൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് താഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തിനു ശക്തിയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിചാരം ബലപ്പെടുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ അസിസ്ററൻറ് താഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കുള്ള ശമ്പളവും അനുസംബന്ധമായുള്ള മററു ചിലവുകളും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ ശിപാർശചെയ്യുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: Reference has been made to the notes of the Finance Committee. I think a word of explanation is due from me in regard to that. I do not think in any other Government notes placed before the Finance Committee are published. They are generally treated as confidential. In reply to a request for the publication of these notes it has been stated that they cannot be published. There is nothing which we want to conceal. Any member may come and refer to them. But it is not an easy task to print and circulate them. Whether that procedure would be right or not has also to be considered and it is not a matter which we can decide all at once. In regard to the publication of the proceedings of the Finance Committee, the members will have to be consulted before they are published. These are the reasons for the Government's refusal to place them on the table. As regards the figures, if you will please mention them, they can be very easily explained.

Mr. Robinson, you have come rather late. The motion is for the reduction of the allotment of Rs. 33,869 by the abolition of Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, this is an item which engaged the full attention of the Council at its first Session in July 1922. A clear case was then made out for the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars and the Council in a body accepted the necessity for continuing the staff at least as a temporary measure. I have very few arguments to place before the Council in addition to those already advanced. It will, I trust, be conceded that, it is in the interests of the administration as well as the large land-owning population of the country, the work of sub-division, *patta* transfer, prevention of encroachments and maintenance

of demarcation stones are vital necessities and that work under these items was allowed to fall into bad arrears for a period of 30 years since the last Settlement. This is the justification for the creation of this special staff. Let us now see what work this staff has turned out since its creation. Briefly, it has disposed of 30,000 *patta* transfer cases, effected 40,000 sub-divisions necessary for the disposal of transfer of registry cases and effected also sub-divisions involved in the assignment of *puduval* lands covering an area of over 9,000 acres, demarcated and surveyed about 60,000 *poramboke* fields and detected an equal number of encroachments and has renewed and repaired nearly 3 lakhs of demarcation stones. It has been ascertained that there are still 47,500 *pokkuvaravu* cases, 12,080 *puduval* cases for disposal and 1,75,000 *poramboke* numbers to be verified, demarcated and surveyed in all the taluks together. I may assure you, Sir, that, of these 47,500 *pokkuvaravu* cases, about 40,000 of which involve sub-divisions and that, of the *puduval* cases pending, a good portion relates to survey numbers in which the lands available for registry require sub-division. The responsibility for clearing off these heavy arrears rests with the Land Records Maintenance staff. For, Government have found by actual experience that the normal staff in the villages will not be able to pay any adequate attention to these items of work in addition to their multifarious duties. Government have at different times attempted at solving the difficulty but the schemes have all failed for want of the necessary staff. It was after mature consultation with the officers concerned that the scheme now working was sanctioned. The out-turn of work achieved by the L. R. M. staff will, I think, convince you, Sir, that there is no reason to entertain a pessimistic view of the work of the Assistant Tahsildars. I am not unaware of the adverse criticism often made against the quality of the work turned out by the staff. I do not claim perfection for the work. It is impossible in the very nature of the work. Even with the best care, no two measurements will agree and it should also be considered that a number of cases initially registered as encroachments are found by subsequent enquiry to be cases of real ownershp. I may assure the Council that the work is not accepted without check and counter-check, with the result that when it ulimately emerges in its final shape, it is not open to any of the objections which could be raised against it in its initial stages. The work of the accountants is checked by the Assistant Tahsildar and re-checked by the Land Records Superintendent. It is the technical side of the work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What percentage of cases detected by the accountants are checked by the Assistant Tahsildar?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): 20 per cent.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How much of the Assistant Tahsildar's work is checked by the Land Records Superintendent?

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No percentage is fixed. After this, the party has an opportunity to show that the occupation is not a case of encroachment and it is only cases which are really objectionable and which, to the satisfaction of the superior officers, are real cases of *poramboke* encroachments that are proceeded with under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

It may be urged that, being divested of the Devaswom and magisterial functions, the Tahsildars would be able to take the place of the Assistant Tahsildars and supervise the L. R. M. work. I may be excused when I say at the outset that the suggestion will never work in practice. It is a delusion to think that the separation of the Devaswom and the magisterial functions has taken away so much of the work of the Tahsildars as will allow them time to supervise on the spot the work of the L. R. M. accountants in any manner that may be considered adequate. The object of the Government in divesting the Tahsildars of the said functions was mainly to enable them to pay better attention to the Revenue duties to which they were able to pay but scant attention before, amidst their multifarious duties. The work which the Tahsildars have to do under the various Regulations and Rules as well as the special or general orders of Government is certainly enormous. The revision of Land Revenue accounts both in the Taluk and in the village offices has thrown on them a very heavy responsibility, on the proper discharge of which depends the efficiency of land revenue administration. They have to be constantly on circuit to keep the village Offices running and to do the many inspections that have necessarily to be done in connection with the several items of work. If we confine these officers to the checking of the work done by the L. R. M. accountants, the result will be that all items of work will suffer, including the L. R. M. work. I may say that the process of L. R. M. work does not end with the preparation of a correct sketch or mahazar,for which the L. R. M. staff are meant. The work only begins there and the main part of the work required under the rules has to be done afterwards by the Tahsildar. For example, take a *poramboke* encroachment case. As soon as the sketch and mahazar are received, a case is taken on the file and the party affected is given a notice. The party invariably contests the case and a clear enquiry has to be gone through with reference to the settlement and sometimes the pre-settlement records and all evidence allowed to be let in. Very often, other departments have to be consulted before the land is assigned on registry or the encroachment is removed and the necessary joint inspection has to be made by the Tahsildar along with the other departmental officers concerned. The necessary steps have then to be taken to credit the fine, *taravila*, or tax in the accounts both in the Taluk and Village and to collect the money. It is the Tahsildar who is responsible for the accuracy of all these steps involved. More or less similar are the steps to be taken in respect of the *pokkuvaravu* and *puduval* cases. In the same manner as the Tahsildar is made responsible for

these important details, it is highly necessary that there should be a reliable officer to be held responsible for the preliminary part of the work referred to. It is for this work that the Assistant Tahsildars are meant. The old system under which the taluk surveyors were playing a prominent part was tried for a long time under varied circumstances prescribed under different rules and was always found wanting in point of both efficiency and honesty and the necessity for having a better class of officers was always felt both by the Government and the public. Man is a being nurtured by hope and any system under which men with no future to look to are made to work is bound to fall in the end. It may easily be said that the Tahsildars were mainly responsible for the failure of the old system in which things were allowed to drift and arrears allowed to accumulate. The question is, why was this so? It may be true to say that one or two Tahsildars were or are not true to their work. But it is certainly too much to say that all the Tahsildars were indifferent to their work when the system failed in spite of its trial for a series of years, even though there was a change in the personnel of the Taluk staff. The only reasonable inference possible is that there was something radically wrong in the system itself.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was this accumulation of heavy arrears due to the multifarious duties of the Tahsildar or to the system of work?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes, to both.

Turning to the revenue side of the L. R. M. work, I must say that the work done so far is encouraging. The revised *Poramboke* Rules prohibiting the levy of more than five years' back assessment, and the imposition of fines in non-objectionable encroachments have affected the revenue to some extent. But I presume that the House will concede that the L. R. M. work is never meant to be a paying concern. The expenditure up to date during 1098 on this special Department is Rs. 56,738 while the amount realised by the exclusive labours of the L. R. M. staff is Rs. 90,000.

I would request the Council to consider whether such a scheme which pays its own expenditure and which is turning out substantial work in the immediate interests of Government and the land-owners and as a preliminary to the coming settlement is not worth a trial. If the work is now to be abandoned, the land records work will not be brought into working order in the near future and it will be necessary at a future date to put on the work an establishment costing much more and the work will then have to be done in a hurry and very unsatisfactorily. I would therefore request the good offices of this House to approve of the scheme and sanction the allotted expenditure, any curtailment of which must necessarily affect the revenue accruing to Government and the out-turn of work as well. I therefore oppose the motion.

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know what work has been turned out by the Assistant Tahsildars during the last eleven months?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will give you the figures.

PRESIDENT: I suppose you have got figures only for ten months.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes.

*Poramboke*s surveyed	..	23,891	
Stones repaired and renewed	...	1,48,450	
Encroachments detected	...	37,530	
Area involved in encroachment	...	2,852	acres.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): You referred to the Land Conservancy Regulation. Is it of *taravila* realised by registry of encroachments or of fines that this amount is made up?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): This includes fines, prohibitory assessment, *Kuttakapattom* rent, *taravila*, *tadivila* and back arrears of assessments and *puduvals* assigned, out of those surveyed by the Land Records staff.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know the cost of establishment for the years 1096, 1097 and 1098?

PRESIDENT: If the House will bear with me, I may tell the House that I am asking Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar, Secretary in charge of the Land Revenue Section, to explain everything at some length. All these figures will be given by him. With the permission of the House, I will allow him some minutes more, as, within the five minutes' time that is allotted to him as a member, Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar cannot do all that. Moreover, he can quote figures more readily as he has been dealing with this for a long time. He will explain the matter and I think he will be in a position to answer all your questions. If the House wants, I have no objection to allow the extra time which I allow Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar, to this House in addition to the prescribed time for this demand.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): We would like to have all information possible.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Do the figures given by Mr. Robinson represent the work done exclusively by Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No, by the whole L. R. M. staff.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, the beginning of land records maintenance in the State was made in the year 1083 soon after the completion of the general survey of the

State. One Taluk Surveyor was appointed to each settled taluk and the surveyors were required to train the *pakuthi* accountants in survey and other details of work connected with the maintenance of land records and then to start work. The training of the village staff itself took a long time. The actual land records maintenance work was started in 1084 and the work was carried on with a special staff of accountants in some of the taluks of the Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum and Quilon Divisions.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Before proceeding further, may I know what was the staff under each Taluk Surveyor?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One accountant for each *pakuthi*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the staff now allowed to Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 289 accountants and double the number of peons, including both the permanent and temporary staff.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In how many *pakuthies* is the staff working?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They are working in 116 *pakuthies*, work being concentrated in four or five *pakuthies* in each taluk.

As no tangible results were seen, the temporary staff was disbanded and a simplified scheme was brought into force from 1090, which worked till the middle of 1096. Even this simplified scheme did not work satisfactorily. The whole question was therefore discussed by the Dewan at a conference of revenue and survey officers, and G. O. No. 12134, dated the 30th December 1920, introducing the scheme under which land records work is now being conducted was the outcome of the resolutions passed at that conference. The scope of the maintenance of land records was narrowed down to the absolutely necessary limits. That is to say, it was confined to the inspection of *poramboke* numbers and sub-numbers, the detection of encroachments, and the demarcation, survey and plotting of *poramboke* numbers, and in the case of other numbers, of those numbers only in which current sub-divisions are involved.

There can be no two opinions that *porambokes* should be maintained free of all encroachments, as they have been reserved as such for the general use of the public, such as roads, lanes, rivers and canals or for communal purposes such as irrigation tanks and channels, grazing grounds and the like. At successive sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and even in this Council, there have been loud complaints made about the imperative need for the removal of encroachments from such *porambokes* and several petitions are being received by Government from day to day pointing out the unauthorised occupations of individual *porambokes* and the need for vacating the encroachments and leaving the *porambokes* intact for public use. Mr. Paul V. Daniel, Mr. A.

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Govinda Menon and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai spoke, I believe, about the need for the removal of encroachments, in this Council at its previous sessions.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are the existing settlement figures of *poramboke* correct?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Settlement areas?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They should be correct as they were arrived at by survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar said last year, when this question was being discussed, that we have no correct measurements of *porambokes*.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That statement probably applies to new *poramboke* sub-divisions treated as such subsequent to the settlement.

Owing to the neglect of timely action and the consequent long occupations and the costly and permanent improvements thereon, it has been found impracticable to remove the encroachments in several cases, even though in the public interests many of them should be removed. It will therefore be conceded that the survey of *porambokes* and the detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable ones among them are most necessary in the interests alike of the Government and of the people, in fact more in the interests of the people than of the Government. This then is the main item of work in which the Land Records staff is now engaged. They are also doing the survey of *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions, and of *puduval* sub-divisions below 10 acres in extent in taluks in which the *Puduval* Survey Party is working and of all *puduval* sub-divisions in the other taluks. The *pokkuvaravu* subdivision work is also very essential for the prompt and easy collection of tax and indispensable both for the people and the Government. Mr. Dominic Tomman has, as you are aware, interpellated Government in this session about the arrears of *pokkuvaravu* work in the *pakuthies* of Kanjirapalli North and South. In fact, the people have been complaining of the inaccuracies in the electoral rolls for the Legislative Council elections and this is due to the defects in the *tandaper* accounts maintained in the *pakuthies* which depend for their accuracy on the transfers of registries being kept up to date. As regards survey of *puduvals*, there is no need for emphasising the importance of a proper survey of a land and for a correct sketch of it before the land is assigned. These two items of work are also being done by the land records maintenance staff. It will thus be seen that the land records work now attempted is absolutely necessary and is the irreducible minimum, and if it is not done, land records will drift into inextricable chaos.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the most important portion of the work done by Assistant Tahsildars? Is it *pokkuvaravu* or *poramboke*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Their primary duty is the conservation of *porambokes*.

PRESIDENT: Both are equally important. That is a matter of opinion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In checking encroachments, do you go by the settlement areas or by the limits of the *porambokes* as you see them on the ground now?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): *Porambokes* which are settlement sub-divisions are measured according to the settlement areas. But if any *poramboke* has increased in area on account of accretion by the action of the sea, river &c., as for instance at Tangacherry, it is measured according to its limits as you see on the ground now.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Supposing an individual has left out a portion of his holding, will that be included within the limits of the *poramboke*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In such a case measurement is done according to the area recorded for it at the settlement.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Rule 35 reads thus:

"If, however, such *porambokes* have become broader and consequently the original boundaries now fall within the *porambokes*, the *porambokes* should be demarcated and measured as per the existing limits."

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That rule will apply to the second class of cases mentioned by me.

When the arrears under this head are cleared, the Tahsildars can and should easily verify the limits of *porambokes* periodically and maintain them intact till the next settlement. In fact, a regular inspection of *porambokes* and the maintenance of their boundary marks have not been done subsequent to the last survey and this need for the conservation of *porambokes* cannot be over-estimated nor can the work be put off any longer.

The scheme as now worked will, on a careful examination, be found to be most economical. The first principle recognised in it is that the work is one which, were it not for the accumulation of heavy arrears, should be done by the normal taluk and *pakuthi* staffs. In this view a good portion of the staff has been diverted from the taluks and *pakuthies* and also from the permanent staff of the Survey Department and their places have not been filled up. The *Preliminary Budget* will show that the following staff has been so diverted in 1098:—

Taluks and Pakuthies.

Taluk Peons ...	25
Pakuthi Accountants ...	136
Pakuthi Peons ...	390

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Survey Department.

Assistant Superintendent of Survey	...	1
Surveyors (including 2 Head Surveyors)	...	27
Head clerk and Draftsmen	...	6
Menials	...	9

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Dewan Peishkars have not complained that the collection work of the *pakuthies* has suffered?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is true. The Government examined the question carefully on receipt of their reports and it was resolved that, for the year 1099, a minimum staff of one accountant and two peons should be allotted to each *pakuthi*. In other words, some accountants drawn away from the *pakuthies* this year, will be given back, so that the work of *pakuthies* may not suffer. The total number of accountants to be retained in 1099 is to be the same, *i. e.*, 136; But they will be found by re-arrangement from the *pakuthies* in accordance with the principle mentioned.

PRESIDENT: I may add a word. The Government are not convinced that the complaint of the Peishkars is well-founded. For, a village in British India, with an equal area, has only one officer, while we have got two such officers for each village here. The Government are not therefore satisfied that the contention of the Dewan Peishkars is right. Nevertheless, their request is to be complied with to a modifieds extent.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Further, much of the legitimate work of the *pakuthi* and taluk staff is being done by the Land Records staff. The *pokkuvaravu* sub-division work and the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases, the *puduval* sub-division work, and the eviction of encroachments and the work of examining the Village B. Register, all these items of work are done by the Assistant Tahsildars and their accountants. It is therefore quite reasonable that a portion of the *pakuthi* staff should be diverted to form the special staff for clearing off arrears under land records work.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know if any minimum work was fixed for 1098 and, if so, what is the amount of the work done by the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Their work comes under several heads. They have to examine 20 per cent. of the *poramboke* numbers measured and plotted, 20 per cent. of the *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions effected and 20 per cent. of the field stones planted or repaired by the accountants.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it dependent upon the volume of work turned out by the accountants?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Exactly. The Assistant Tahsildars have to check the work of the

accountants by constant supervision and satisfy themselves that adequate work is turned out by them.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): If *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions and *pattas* are prepared by the Land Records Maintenance staff, the Tahsildars will have no work. The whole work may be entrusted to the Land Records staff.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): *Pokkuvaravu pattas* are not prepared by the Land Records Maintenance staff. Even with the transfer of the above items of work to the Land Records Maintenance staff, Tahsildars still have a large quantity of work to attend to. Under *pokkuvaravu*, the Assistant Tahsildar surveys the sub-divisions, passes orders in the *pokkuvaravu* cases and transfers the records to the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar takes further action in correcting the Revenue accounts and prepares and issues *pattas*. Under *porambokes*, the Assistant Tahsildar prepares the sketch and *mahazar* of an encroachment and transfers the records to the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar then either starts a *puduval* case and assigns the land, or initiates proceedings under the Land Conservancy Regulation and takes further action under the law. Similarly, with other items of work. In fact, there are several items of work which the Tahsildar has to do. Whatever work the Land Records staff can do in the field is saddled upon the Assistant Tahsildar.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why not they be asked to do this work also?

PRESIDENT: Only the Tahsildars have got the power under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

MR. T. P RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For 1099, the same staff is proposed to be continued with the following modifications:—

Of the *pakuthi* peons, only 155 are to be diverted and the remaining 235 peons are to be sent back to the *pakuthies* as all the Peishkars complain that the normal work of the *pakuthies* suffers for want of a sufficient number of peons. The number of surveyors is to be reduced from 27 to 6 as the work of refixing theodolite stations on the sides of *porambokes* is nearing completion. The temporary staff entertained is only to supplement the permanent staff and the absolutely necessary staff has alone been entertained. In view of the importance and magnitude of the work taken up, the addition on account of the temporary staff cannot be considered to be too much.

The total number of *porambokes* to be inspected and maintained is 2,36,407 and their area 3,23,387 acres; and this, as explained already, is but a portion of the work to be tackled by the Land Records staff.

The work done by the Land Records staff is bound to be unpopular—

PRESIDENT: You must hurry on, Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar.

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): My speech is nearing completion, Sir. Very few *poramboke* cases were—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: Please wait till he finishes his sentence.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): For the same work done by the Tahsildar himself, would he not be unpopular?

PRESIDENT: Your question is purely hypothetical.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Comparatively speaking, very few *poramboke* cases were being attended to by the Tahsildars. They were not doing much work under this head.

The work done by the Land Records staff is bound to be unpopular because no one likes to be told that the compound wall of his house has encroached on road limits and that it should be put back or that the cocoanut plantation he has raised on a water course has to be removed; but this detection of encroachments and the removal of the really objectionable encroachments are the main items of work for which the Assistant Tahsildars have been appointed. The Assistant Tahsildars as a class and their accountants cannot, therefore, in the nature of things, be popular if they do their duties conscientiously and fearlessly. Much of the criticisms levelled against the scheme is unfortunately due to this circumstance. Government have carefully examined the *poramboke* rules, that is, the rules issued under the Land Conservancy Regulation and revised them suitably, so that they may sit on the people very lightly. In the rules, unauthorised occupations have been classified into (1) cases in which occupations, whether temporary or permanent, are unobjectionable, (2) those in which temporary occupation is unobjectionable but permanent occupation is objectionable and (3) those in which the occupation, whether temporary or permanent, is objectionable. The rules lay down that, in the first class of cases, the encroachments should be assigned to the occupants; in the second, the land or trees or both should be leased to them; and in the third case alone is the occupation to be put an end to. No eviction, fine or prohibitory assessment need be imposed in the first class of cases, no eviction is necessary in the second and the penal provisions have to be enforced only in the third class of cases. The prohibitory assessment is to be imposed only on the land and not on the trees, and this assessment should not be any fabulous amount but should be a multiple not exceeding five times the ordinary rates of assessment for the land. The back arrears of such assessment are under no circumstances to be recovered for more than five years. It will thus be seen that the rules could not be made more lenient. Responsible officers like the Assistant Tahsildars are necessary for recording the opinion in each case whether an encroachment is objectionable or unobjectionable and they are required to state their reasons. The entrusting of this responsible work to the village staff or to Taluk Surveyors whose sense of responsibility is low, would

be disastrous. The Tahsildar may, in cases of doubt or complaints, inspect the land himself before he passes his decisions in *poramboke* cases. The aggrieved parties have a right to go in appeal to the Peishkar and in revision over his appellate decision to the Dewan. The parties are heard at all these stages. In many cases of appeals and revision petitions, the lands have been ordered to be assigned to the occupants. Thus, to the utmost extent possible, the occupations are allowed to be continued. All possible safeguards against hardships to the occupants have therefore been provided in the rules. The scheme should not, therefore, in fairness, be objected to on the ground that a large number of encroachment cases are being started as a result of the labours of the Land Records staff. This is inevitable and it is for the public good.

I will now explain at greater length the details of the work done by the Land Records staff. They are the following:—

Firstly, the refixing of the theodolite stations on the sides of *porambokes* as a preliminary to the survey of *porambokes*, absolutely necessary for correctly fixing their boundaries.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know how long this House will sit?

PRESIDENT: As I told you, I am prepared to allow you all the extra time which Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar takes *minus* the five minutes he is entitled to. I consider this is a very important matter and I want this House to hear all that has got to be said by Government and come to a dispassionate conclusion. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Ordinarily what is the interval between the refixing of the theodolite stones by the surveyor and the taking up of the case by the accountant?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I cannot say exactly, because the surveyors have started the work in advance and the Assistant Tahsildars are following in their wake. I cannot say what exactly is the interval.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Roughly?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It will vary in the different taluks, and in the *pakuthies* of the same taluk. The longest interval may be the period between the time of refixing of theodolite stones in one *pakuthi* and the present time because some of the *pakuthies* have been left untouched. In those *pakuthies*, the theodolite stones will not have been examined by the Assistant Tahsildar at all.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Since Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar is speaking on behalf of the Government, he will have to give correct information to this House. I have to point out that my question is very important, because one of the essential conditions of land records maintenance is the taking up of these cases close after a correct survey. In their proceedings No. 7380/L. R., dated the 26th July, 1914,

[MR. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Government say that the essential condition for the success of the land records maintenance scheme is that it should follow close upon the survey and that a correct survey and that that has been found wanting. What I wish to know is whether the present land records maintenance follows close upon the survey.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The survey contemplated there is a complete survey and not refixing theodolite stones alone. Here, what the surveyors do is only to refix the theodolite stones. Then the Assistant Tahsildars do the rest of the work. In fact, the survey is being done by the Assistant Tahsildar and his staff.

PRESIDENT: The first stage is the refixing of theodolite stones.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Practically, these are both being done now almost together?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; more or less. The surveyors are going on with their refixing work and the Assistant Tahsildars are following in their wake and doing the land records maintenance work.

Secondly, the verification of the original survey boundaries of the *porambokes*.

Thirdly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of the *porambokes*.

Fourthly, the preparation of two extra copies of the plotted sketches of *porambokes*, for reference in the Taluk and Pakuthi Cutcherries.

Fifthly, the detection of encroachments and the preparation of the necessary records therefor.

Sixthly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of the sub-divisions necessitated by *pokkuvaravu*.

And lastly, the demarcation, survey and plotting of *puduval* lands available for registry in survey numbers under ten acres in the twelve taluks in which *puduval* survey party has been working and of all the areas in the remaining taluks.

The first item is alone being done by the surveyors of the Survey Department and the rest by the Assistant Tahsildars helped by their staff of accountants. The Assistant Tahsildars are also disposing of *pokkuvaravu* cases in the villages. Thus, the work that is done by the Assistant Tahsildars is both survey and revenue work unlike the Taluk Surveyors who did only survey work and that, on a small scale, and their work is far more heavy and responsible than the work that used to be done by the Taluk Surveyors of old. These surveyors had mostly no general educational qualifications and many of them had no knowledge of English. Most of the members on the non-official side must have had enough experience of them. There had been numerous complaints about those men and their work, during the time they were attached to the taluk offices, and the Tahsildars, being not fully qualified in survey,

were unable to detect the flaws in their work and check their vagaries. The present set of Assistant Tahsildars are, on the other hand, all graduates, with the exception of six, and eleven of them are graduates-in-law. They have had a good training in chain and theodolite survey under the superior officers of the Survey Department, and the training in theory and practice they have received is being gradually perfected by the extensive practical work they have now to do in the field under the vigilant supervision of the Superintendent of Land Records. These men are therefore in every way better fitted for doing the work on which they have been put than the Taluk Surveyors, and if they are responsible for the detection of a large number of encroachments, they have to be complimented for the fearless discharge of their duties instead of being made the target of so much criticism.

PRESIDENT: You have got only two minutes more.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How many *pokkuvaravu* cases have been disposed of this year?

PRESIDENT: I think about 25,000 cases.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Up to the end of Medam, over 34,000 have been disposed of.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Out of how many cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The number of cases pending at the beginning of 1098 was 44,000, and the number received during the year was 45,000. The total number of cases for disposal was thus 89,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): How many of them involved sub-divisions?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): About two-thirds roughly.

PRESIDENT: Is it out of those disposed of?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Then how many of them?

PRESIDENT: 25,000 and odd.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The extent of land involved in these cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures for that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is any information available in regard to the cases detected before the new arrangement was introduced?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have the figures of *poramboke* cases before and after the scheme, but not of encroachments detected.

[Mr. T P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): What is the percentage of sketches sent for correction by the Land Records Staff which have been returned after correction by the Land Records Superintendent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Over 4,000 and odd. This information has been given in answer to an interpellation during this session.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it for 1098?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For nine months in 1098.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Out of how many sketches sent up?

Mr. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I can't say.

PRESIDENT: The percentage is very small. It works out to abont 4 per cent. if I remember right.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there any difference between the supervision now exercised and that by the Survey Superintendent in the past?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Considerable. Under the old arrangement, whenever the Superintendent or his assistant went out anywhere on circuit, they used to check the land records work from *outside*. Now, the Assistant Tahsildars are doing it from *inside*. They are practically living with the accountants *in the pakuthies* for 20 to 25 days in the month and checking their work. That matters all the difference. The work of the Assistant Tahsildar is further checked by the Land Records Superintendent.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How many *pokkuvaravu* cases were disposed of by the Tahsildars in 1095 before the separation of this work and the appointment of the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 53,006 cases.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): Out of how many cases?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Out of 86,000 cases.

PRESIDENT: How many of them involved sub-divisions?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not the information here just now.

The work was commenced on the 1st Kumbhom 1096 in the 14 backwater taluks and in the remaining taluks from the 1st Edavom 1096. The refixing work of the theodolite surveyors is nearing completion, and there is a balance of work only in 53 out of 400 *pakuthies*, and this

will be completed well within the close of 1099 by the small staff of 6 surveyors, who alone are to be retained in 1099 for the purpose, against the 25 surveyors in the current year 1098. The Land Revenue Commissioner has given you the figures of out-turn achieved by the Land Records staff in 1098. I shall not therefore repeat them.

It will be seen that the out-turn achieved by the staff in the ten months of 1098 is, except under one or two items, very much greater than that for 1097. This shows that the Assistant Tahsildars have, by their past experience, now obtained a grasp of their work. It will be seen that more than one-fourth of the total number of *porambokes* have hitherto been demarcated and surveyed. It may, however, be mentioned that the progress achieved is not rightly judged by the number of *porambokes* completed because the operations have hitherto been going on in large backwaters, rivers, roads, canals etc., which have only one survey number assigned to them for each *pakuthi*. For instance, in one *Kayal* survey number, a large number of accountants will have worked for several months and yet, for purposes of out-turn, this is reckoned only as one number. Many of the large *porambokes* have now been completed and what remains for attention are the comparatively smaller *porambokes*. It is therefore expected that, as judged even by the number of *porambokes* completed, a much greater percentage of out-turn will be shown in future. Till now the land records work under the present scheme has been completed in 84 *pakuthies* and the staff is now working in 116 *pakuthies*. The balance of work that remains is the following, *viz.*, 1,75,000 *poramboke* numbers to be verified, surveyed and plotted; 40,000 *pokkuvaravu* sub-divisions to be surveyed and about an equal number of *pokkuvaravu* cases to be disposed of, and the sub-division survey of *puduval* lands involved in applications. Under *pokkuvaravu* and *puduvals* more work will be coming.

The Land Records Department is, strictly speaking, not a revenue-yielding department and the necessity for the continuance of the staff should not therefore be judged by the revenue it yields but by a realisation of the urgency and importance of the work it has to do. Nevertheless, in the discharge of the work entrusted to the Land Records staff here, they have brought in a very large amount of revenue. In the backwater and other bigger *porambokes*, several registries had been made during the settlement and subsequently by the Revenue Department. But these holdings have not been demarcated and correctly surveyed. Owing to the absence of survey marks, numerous encroachments have been made on these *porambokes*. Now the Land Records staff are demarcating all such registries and the excess over the registered holdings is taken as an encroachment. Similar encroachments are also detected in the smaller *porambokes*. Such of the encroachments as are unobjectionable are transferred to *tharisu* and registered in the names of the occupants. Those encroachments, the permanent registry of which is alone objectionable, are leased to the occupants. Only in the case of the encroachments whose occupation—whether temporary or permanent—is objectionable, are the occupants evicted. These processes

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

bring in a revenue in the shape of *taravila*, *tadirila*, back arrears of assessment, *kuthagapattom* rent, prohibitory assessment and fines. Most of these encroachments would never have come to light but for the Land Records staff and that staff may therefore legitimately take credit for this revenue. As already stated, the Land Records staff has also surveyed over 9,000 acres of *puduval* lands and the registry of these lands also yields a revenue in the shape of *taravila* and other dues. The total amount realised by the labours of the Land Records staff under these two heads since the commencement of their operations is Rs. 3,22 098. This is very much more than the expenditure incurred on account of the additional temporary staff entertained for Land Records work in these years amounting to Rs. 1,66,679.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does that include the salary of the Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. Including the pay of the Assistant Tahsildars which amounts to Rs. 80,800, the total cost amounts to Rs. 2,47,479 on the whole.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does it include the salary of the Land Records Superintendent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, he is a permanent officer, and no substitute has been appointed in his place in the Survey Department.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): May we know when the work will be completed?

PRESIDENT: We cannot commit ourselves to a definite statement.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): Last year, Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar said that it will be completed in two years.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar expected that the work might be finished in about two years. But the President said it was not possible to fix a definite period immediately.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated Deputy President*): Approximately what time will it take?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Member be pleased to state approximately what more time it will take?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): As regards the time within which the balance of work could be completed, it is not practicable to give a correct forecast because the volume of survey work to be done, the number of stones missing and these requiring repair and other details of the work to be done are not in the nature of things ascertainable beforehand. Still, on a rough calculation, the Superintendent of Land Records estimates that a period of

three years will as an outside estimate be required for completing the whole work with the staff now allowed, but it might be possible to finish it in two years.

PRESIDENT: A definite period cannot be fixed.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to add a word or two to what has already been said on this side of the House in regard to the land records maintenance scheme. So far as I could see, both sides of the House are practically agreed that there are heavy arrears under land records maintenance and that their prompt clearance is essential to the efficient administration of land revenue. The House also has an idea of the enormous quantity of the arrear work remaining to be done under this head. Now the question is what arrangement should be made to work off these arrears, whether the normal staff of the Land Revenue Department will be able to cope with them or whether the employment of a special agency is really necessary for their disposal.

In considering this question, two important facts have to be borne in mind. In the first place, it has to be remembered that under the rules, all original work connected with land records maintenance, as distinguished from the work of supervision, has to be done by village accountants. That is to say, whether in the case of a *poramboke* field or a *pokkuvaravu* sub-division or a *puduval* sub-division, the verification of its boundaries and its demarcation, survey and plotting have all to be done by village accountants. This is a laborious process. Take for instance the case of a *poramboke* field. Its boundaries have to be first verified with reference to the original measurements. This is not always easy because more than 75 per cent. of the demarcation stones planted on the ground at the time of original survey are now found missing, and the measurements of the holdings adjoining the *poramboke* have very often to be taken before its boundaries are indentified. The next process is the demarcation of the boundaries of the *poramboke*. If the landholders concerned do not plant stones on the boundaries, in pursuance of the notice issued to them, the accountant has to produce the required number of stones from his stock and plant them. This means he has to go to the field a second time for the purpose of demarcation. After demarcation, he has to survey the field and prepare the necessary plotted sketch. Should there be encroachments on the *poramboke*, he has also to prepare a sketch of it showing the area and nature of the encroachments and the name and address of the person responsible for the same. I mention these details to show that the work is of an arduous nature requiring close application. The other fact to be remembered in this connection is that the village establishments throughout the State were revised more than twelve years ago and that the existence of heavy arrears under L. R. M. work was not then taken into consideration in fixing the staff for the several *pakuthies*. You will find that there are only 608 accountants for all the 409 *pakuthies* in the State. This staff is intended to attend to the current work. Even this work in some of the

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

pakuthies has become so heavy that the necessity for splitting up the *pakuthies* or augmenting their staff has been more than once urged upon the attention of Government. How then can we expect the normal village staff to get through the arrears which have accumulated since the completion of settlement? Once the arrears are cleared, the normal staff will be in a position to carry on the current work; but for the disposal of the arrears within a reasonable time, a special staff of village accountants appears absolutely necessary.

If it is conceded that a special village staff is indispensable for the clearance of the arrears, the next point for consideration is whether the Tahsildars will be able to effectively check and supervise the work of the special village staff. The L. R. M. scheme is proposed to be continued in 26 taluks. The Tahsildars in charge of 5 of these taluks have to exercise magisterial functions also and they will hardly find time to attend to the arrears of land records maintenance work. Even in the case of the remaining 21 taluks, I do not think it will be possible for the Tahsildars to devote adequate attention to the supervision and scrutiny of the work of the special accountants. This will be clear from an examination of the nature and scope of the supervision work now done by an Assistant Tahsildar. I would invite the attention of the House to rules 43 to 53 of the L. R. M. rules, enumerating the duties of the Assistant Tahsildar. The Assistant Tahsildar has to get up early in the morning and be in the field by 6 or 7 A. M. and could get back by 11 or 12 only. Generally the work-spot is about 3 or 4 miles away from his camp and so his actual journey to the work-spot and back takes about 2 hours. The refixing of the boundaries of 3 or 4 *porambokes* will take as many hours. He will then have to check the measurements newly taken for independent plotting of the fields. In the afternoon, he has to check the plottings of the fields inspected in the morning, scrutinise the records and diaries of the accountants with reference to the records prepared up to the date of inspection. He has to re-compute the areas and check the plottings of 20 per cent. of the *poramboke* numbers. He has also to record his remarks as to the assignability or otherwise of the encroachments inspected by him in the morning. Twenty per cent. of the *pokkuvaravu* and puduval sub-divisions demarcated by the accountants has also to be checked by each Assistant Tahsildar. In other words, each Assistant Tahsildar has to put in about 7 or 8 hours' tight work daily in the office and field together. The accountants are low-paid men and they are likely to scamp their work unless it is closely and effectively supervised on the spot. It is idle to expect the Tahsildars to do this intensive kind of work without prejudice to their other duties. As a mattter of fact, we find that they are not even able to follow up the work done by the Land Records staff. For example, out of the 20,321 encroachment cases detected by that staff in 1097, only 6,699 cases were disposed of by the Tahsildars. That being the case, how can they do all the supervision work now done by the

Assistant Tahsildars? The replacement of the latter by the Taluk Surveyors of old will be objectionable for more reasons than one. I would therefore ask the House to seriously consider the question in all its aspects before they resolve to throw the land records scheme overboard. A good portion of the arrears has been cleared off already. The special staff is properly equipped and trained and the work is in full swing and if they go on like this, they will be able to wipe off the arrears in two or three years' time. If on the other hand, they are suddenly disbanded and the work retransferred to the normal revenue staff, practically nothing will get done. They will be struggling against the accumulated arrears as they have been doing prior to 1096. The land records will get more and more into a muddle and seriously hamper the administration of land revenue. As the old adage says, a stitch in time saves nine. If we cannot make up our mind to spend some extra money and work off the arrears within a reasonable time we shall have to spend several times the amount in the near future for a regular re-survey of the taluks which will become inevitable.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): In regard to this vexed question of the Assistant Tahsildars, the Dewan in his reply to the representations at the last session of the Assembly said that there was very great difficulty in getting the sanction of the Legislative Council for the continuance of these officers. Last year it was promised that the question will be re-examined in 1098 and we are now at it. I may be permitted to state that I was one of those who had an opportunity to examine this question very thoroughly in the Finance Committee and I have not been convinced of the necessity of continuing this scheme. I listened very carefully to the arguments advanced by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar to see whether there was any further fact deserving of consideration. I find that almost all these facts were placed before the Finance Committee and fully discussed. At any rate, in regard to one or two facts referred to by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, I might speak a few words. It was almost conceded that, but for the heavy arrears that have accumulated, it should be possible and it would be possible for the ordinary *pakuthi* staff to attend to the land records maintenance work. It was certainly the arrears that formed the basis of this scheme and the justification for the continuance of the same.

Now without going into the merits of the case, on the admission of the Government itself during the last 2½ years, the Assistant Tahsildars, those efficient young graduates, have been able to work down a large volume of arrears; nevertheless there remain very many more cases to be attended to, and it cannot be now ascertained when the work will be completed; the Land Records Superintendent would say that it would take two more years. My point is that since the Assistant Tahsildars have already disposed of a large portion of the arrears it may be possible for the Tahsildar and the ordinary *pakuthi* staff, if necessary together with some of the special accountants, to dispose of the remaining cases. With these temporary accountants it would be

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possible for the survey staff and the Tahsildar to attend efficiently to the land records work. The Assistant Tahsildars were created as Executive Assistants of the Tahsildars to relieve the latter of their land registry and *poramboke* work, since in the midst of their multifarious duties such as Devaswom and Magisterial work they were unable efficiently to discharge their land records work.

Now the conditions have altered considerably and the Tahsildars should be able and ought to be made to do the land records maintenance work that legitimately appertains to them. If any Tahsildar is not able to cope with his work, you should put in such Tahsildars as will be able to attend to his work because to me it appears that the land records work forms as much his legitimate work as the collection of revenue. I would also say that the Tahsildars had 32 surveyors, about 25 of whom have since been transferred to the Survey Department. Twenty-one of them are hereafter to do the original *puduval* survey work which is of a temporary nature.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid there is some misapprehension. Such a large staff is not to do the temporary *puduval* survey work which is practically being stopped.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Under original *puduval* survey, the budget for 1099 provided for eleven surveyors.

PRESIDENT: For correction work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, Sir, for correction work there is a different provision.

PRESIDENT: No. There is only a small staff of four surveyors for original survey work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): For the original there are ten. For correction work, eleven surveyors are deputed. Now, the Tahsildars together with the surveyors who have been transferred from the Land Revenue Department to the Survey Department should be able to do this land records work which forms one of the most legitimate duties of the land revenue Department. I have no complaint whatever against land records maintenance. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most essential functions of the Land Revenue Department and the people are no doubt in favour of the rectification of land records. The only difference of opinion relates to the agency to be employed, whether the Taluk establishment or the Assistant Tahsildar should perform this work. Why should a new staff of costly officers be created for the reason that the Regular *pakuthi* staff was neglecting the work which formed part of their legitimate duties. It is the new agency employed for this work that I object to and under existing circumstances I see no justification whatever for the continuance of the Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I support this motion. I have to submit that our Assistant Tahsildars are not to be bothered with the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases.

PRESIDENT: There again there is a misapprehension. They are not to dispose of all *pokkuvaravu* cases; they dispose of *pokkuvaravu* cases where local enquiry is necessary and they also dispose of *pokkuvaravu* cases involving sub-division.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Even there I do not agree. The disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases involves two or three functions. All that is necessary is to find out the proportion of the tax to be paid on the properties to be transferred by one party to another. That is done long before the disposal of the *pokkuvaravu* cases generally. What I mean is this, that as soon as a property is transferred from one man to another, which is done either by a registered document or by a registry in the case of *puduval*

PRESIDENT: Such cases are not disopsed of by the Assistant Tahsildars, as I told you.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Such cases also arise, and I am aware of these being disposed of by them.

PRESIDENT: They are contested cases.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): When the property is thus transferred, the owner asks the *proverthicar* to let him know the exact tax he has to pay. As one of his functions is to ascertain the exact amount of tax, it is done by the *proverthicar*. There are not many taluks in which there are *pokkuvaravu* cases involving sub-divisions. Taluks where properties are conveyed by halves or portions of a survey number or area are very rare. In my part of the country, central Travancore, we are not in the habit of transferring properties in halves or by fractions of survey numbers or by branches of trees except where partition deeds are executed. Such cases are rare. Even this work is entrusted to the *proverthicar* and his accountant and to a clerk who is even now in the taluk office, to look after the *pokkuvaravu* cases under the supervision of the taluk Tahsildar. These Assistant Tahsildars are thus not to be entrusted with that work.

As regards sub-division, I do not know whether the work that should really be done is done even by the Assistant Tahsildar. The sub-division of property conveyed by one party to another requires a Tahsildar to go to the spot and do the work. I am not sure whether even the Assistant Tahsildars are doing that work in that way. They may do the work in paper, but they may not actually go to the spot. I have not come across any case where the Assistant Tahsildar has done it on the spot. So I think these cases can be disposed of by other agencies than these Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I correct a statement? The number of *pokkuvaravu* cases disposed of this year comes to 14,228. It is not a small number.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശിൽദാരന്മാരെ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എൻെറ താലൂക്കിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. എൻെറ ആലോചനയിലും അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം ശരിയാണെന്നു തോന്നീട്ടുണ്ട്. അയൽതാലൂക്കിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും മററു രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും നിവസിയ്ക്കുന്നവരായ പൌരന്മാൎക്കും അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാർ വേണ്ടെന്നു തന്നെയാണ് അഭിപ്രായമെന്നു പലവിധത്തിൽ എനിക്കറിയാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവരെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടാൽ ഞാൻ എൻെറ താലൂക്കിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സ്നേഹിതനായിരിയ്ക്കയില്ല. ഇവർ പുറമ്പോക്കു കേസ്സുകളും മററും എടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ജനങ്ങൾക്കവരോടു വിരോധമെന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു തോന്നിയേക്കാം. വഴിയോ, തോടോ, കുളമോ മററ് ഇതു പോലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സൌകൎയ്യത്തിനുതകുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും സ്ഥലങ്ങളോ ആരെങ്കിലും ആക്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ ഒഴിച്ചിടുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു സന്തോഷത്തിനേ വകയുള്ളു. അസ്ഥാനത്തു ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുവാനായി പുറമ്പോക്കു എടുക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടേ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെറുപ്പുണ്ടാകു. പോക്കുവരവു കേസ്സുകൾ ഇവർ തീൎത്തിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ പ്രയോജനമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ അല്ല ഇവർ അധികം ഏൎപ്പെട്ടു കാണുന്നതു്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷയ്ക്കനുസരണമായ ഫലം വെളിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല.

ദേവസ്വവും മജിസ്ട്രീരിയലും ജോലികൾ ഒഴിച്ചതിൽ പിന്നെ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാൎക്കു ജോലി തീരെ കുറവാണ്. മുമ്പൊ ക്രമത്തിലധികം ജോലിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അധികജോലി ചെയ്തവർ വിശ്രമാൎത്ഥം ഉറങ്ങാൻ ഭാവിക്കുന്ന പോലെയായിരിയ്ക്കാം ഇവർ സുഖനിദ്രയിൽ ലയിക്കുവാൻ ആരംഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. കരം പിരിവിൻെറ കാലങ്ങളിൽ പകുതികളിലുള്ളവരെ ഉത്സാഹിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാൻ കുറെ ഉണൎന്നു പ്രവൎത്തിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ആ സമയത്തെ പകുതികളിലുള്ളവൎക്കും പറയത്തക്കജോലികളുള്ളു. മററു സമയങ്ങളിൽ തഹശിൽദാരും പകുതിഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ജോലിചെയ്യാമെന്നുവച്ചാൽ പോക്കുവരവു, പുറമ്പോക്കു മുതലായി ഇപ്പോൾ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ജോലികളെല്ലാം ശരിയായി ചെയ്തു തീൎക്കാം. കഴിയുന്നതും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ എണ്ണം കുറച്ച് ഉള്ളവരെ കൊണ്ടു വേണ്ടവിധം ജോലികൾ നടത്തിയ്ക്കയാണ് ജനങ്ങ

ക്കും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിനും ഗുണകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിനാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ കുമാരപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): അസിസ്റ്റന്റു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരൊ പാർവ്വത്യകാരന്മാരൊ അധികം ഉപദ്രവികൾ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ആ തക്കം ഇനിയും തീർന്നിട്ടില്ല.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLY (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, the fact that the question about the Assistant Tahsildar had been hardly contested in the last budget session gave food to the people for further thought and enquiry in the matter. As a result I see that there is a consensus of opinion against the retention of this class of officers. At least as regards my constituency, I can assure you, Sir, that as a whole they are of opinion that the Assistant Tahsildars are absolutely unnecessary. The Tahsildars, whose legitimate function is to look after the work of land records maintenance, are now, as Mr. Kunjitomman remarked and as many of us know personally, having a very good time of it. Under the circumstances, especially as the greater portion of the arrears which they made, and for which the Assistant Tahsildars were appointed to help them, have now been finished, they can do the work themselves; and we can do away with this class of officers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the species of officers known as the Assistant Tahsildars, though not of long standing, have got an interesting history. I may refer to their development briefly. At the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, in your address to the Assembly, you laid down certain specific proposals to utilise the services of the Assistant Tahsildars. In that year, fifteen Assistant Tahsildars were employed in connection with the land records maintenance work and another batch was then undergoing training for the same purpose. It was also pointed out that there was considerable neglect in the matter of land records maintenance work; there was a large number of encroachments upon communal lands. To rectify the errors in the survey, that is, the survey that preceded the last settlement, which was assumed to be imperfect and often erroneous and also to effect sub-division work as well as to detect encroachments and to eject trespassers, these officers would, it was said, be of considerable use. It was also forecasted in that address that within a couple of years the ground would be prepared for the ensuing re-settlement. These hopes received considerable impetus that year. I see on pages 33 and 34, from representations made by a nominated member—not an elected member—from South Travancore, that there were considerable encroachments on lanes and paths in the Agastisvaram and Eraniel taluks and that he wanted the assistance of Government to set matters right. Endearing promises

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

were held out by Government, and somehow or other the people on the whole allowed the screw to be applied without understanding how it was going to work. At the eighteenth session of the Assembly, that is, next year, we see that the screw had got pretty tight by the time, with the result that representatives from four or five taluks agitated seriously that the land records maintenance work and the operation of the Assistant Tahsildars were an unmixed evil. They cried for deliverance from the operations of these officers. But the Government said that the very ground of their complaint was an argument for their retention and their complaints were not regarded properly except that the fringes of the machinery were oiled and certain concessions and certain alleviating rules were also granted. When we come to the nineteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the operation of the screw may be seen to be sufficiently excruciating with the result that two members, one from Mavelikara and another from Kunnattur made lamentable representations which certainly must have been laid to heart by the Government; but they were also promised that ultimately it would be to their advantage and good, that the result they were going to have was certainly the termination of all trouble and that this land records maintenance work was absolutely necessary.

This is their short history; and coming later on, we see that the Assistant Tahsildars themselves came in for a large amount of criticism in the Administration Reports. This year what we notice is that the Assistant Tahsildars with their attendants, the accountants and peons, were all formed into a particular group and were placed directly under the Assistant to the Survey Superintendent, who himself underwent a change in his nomenclature by becoming the Superintendent of Land Records.

The question that arises in this connection mainly is first of all why the forecast of two years during which these people were to get through their work has been falsified. Secondly, what is the continuing necessity underlying the appointment of all these officers. It is on an assumption that these officers have been started to work.

PRESIDENT: I would request you to have regard for time. Already you have taken six minutes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have I not got ten minutes? I had sent a motion.

PRESIDENT: I did not recollect it. I am sorry. You have ten minutes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The prime duty of the Assistant Tahsildar as may be seen from the proceedings of the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly is to inspect and check *porambokes*. Now, that implies necessarily that the Government assumes that there are large encroachments upon *porambokes*.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you have ten minutes. You admitted your motion was identical. But you may finish your speech.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Nobody is certain of the sort of encroachment that has been made upon the *porambokes* hitherto. Therefore these officers are appointed in the hope that *porambokes* have been encroached upon. But where is the datum which enables us to know to what extent these *porambokes* have been encroached upon?

PRESIDENT: Survey.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is the survey no doubt. I shall come to the question very soon. With respect to the prime duty of the Assistant Tahsildar, it is said to be the detection of the encroachment on *porambokes*. We have absolutely nothing to proceed upon in the shape of ascertained facts.

We have to proceed upon the basis of the existing survey. The land records maintenance staff is not conducting a re-survey. The existing survey has been admitted to be considerably imperfect and often erroneous. If it is accepted as the basis and these officers are allowed to go on, no doubt they will be able to find out quite a large number of encroachments. The number of encroachments detected in 1096 was 6,999, in 1097, 20,324 and in the first the months of 1098, 37,000 and odd. Evidently, when once they were appointed, they have been able to find out encroachments in a progressively increasing manner. How many of these are real encroachments have yet to be tested by the decisions of civil courts. I understand that already a large number of notices of suit have been served upon the Government with respect to the correctness of these evictions. And the number of suits against Government to be filed hereafter will, I am sure, show a rise in the various District Courts. I ask whether the Land Revenue Commissioner is in a position to give us an idea of the figures.

PRESIDENT: He will give the information in his reply.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I drew attention by means of an interpellation to the statistics of cases filed in the Kottayam District Court in which the Sirkar was defendant and had to pay damages and costs. We will therefore have to pay more in future years.

PRESIDENT: May I correct you and point out that as a matter of fact we are providing only a less amount for 1099 under Law charges in the Land Revenue budget?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): We cannot be sure of that till the revised estimates for 1099 are prepared.

As for the correct ascertaining of encroachments, have we got any more solid material than the survey records now available? People clamour for the copies of *ozhugus* of the prior settlements of 1012 and 993 M. E.

PRESIDENT: Copies of *ozhugus* are being furnished.

[Mr K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is what I find from the answer to an interpellation by Mr. Nidiry. It was said that copies would be furnished when proper occasions are pointed out. But all the same, the experience is that copies are not issued.

So, the nature of the work turned out by these people remains to be seen. It has been incidentally pointed out that they are bringing in some revenue. They brought in Rs. 99,948 in 1096 and more than Rs. 1 lakh in 1097. This fact creates an undercurrent of suspicion as to the objects of Government in making these appointments. There is a decline in the demand for *puduval* revenue without which in recent years it has been found that administration cannot successfully get on. Though there has been a considerable decline in the demand for regular *puduvals*, it is the duty of the budget framer to balance the budget. That is a serious matter. What the Assistant Tahsildars and the Land Records Department are really attempting is to force *puduvals* on people who do not want them. Encroachments are thus detected where there are none, and the people are compelled to take the registry of these and avoid the trouble and conflict with Government. People who do not directly go in for *puduvals* are obliged to go in for them, and the revenue is thus kept up. The revenue thus realised in 1097 was Rs. 1,33,987. This consisted partly of fines and partly of *vilayartham*, back arrears, and prohibitory assessment. A portion of this will be an addition to the recurring revenue as well. What is popularly believed is that, in order to escape from the possible contingency of a deficit from the *puduval* lands, the Land Records Department inflicts *puduval* upon people. That, I submit, is a very undesirable procedure.

As my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai said, nobody is against the preservation of *porambokes*. Nobody wants to throw any obstacle in the way of Government doing that work. It must, however, be properly done.

Supposing the work is finished in two years, and the land records maintenance work devolved on the normal staff of the Revenue Department will not the arrears accumulate again and the present process have to be repeated?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar said that it should be possible for the normal staff to keep current hereafter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In 1083, the settlement was completed and it was found in 1092 that the work of land records maintenance was in arrears and should be seriously taken up. The lapse of eight or ten years brought about the accumulation of arrears we are face to face with. Six or seven years after the completion of work by the Assistant Tahsildars, a similar difficulty may arise and the land revenue maintenance staff revived.

We now maintain a Survey Department costing—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Rs. 86,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No; it costs Rs. 1,75,000 according to the Statistics Volume.

PRESIDENT: That includes expenditure on the *Pudaval* Survey Party as well.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Twenty-six surveyors have been transferred from the Revenue Department. There is also the ordinary staff of the *pakuthies* and the taluks. With respect to the office of the Tahsildar, it has been acknowledged by Government that his work has considerably been lightened. In this year's address to the Popular Assembly, you say as follows:—

> "It has freed land revenue officers of the heavy extraneous duty of administering Sirkar Devaswoms and has made it possible for them to pay greater attention to, and to perform more efficiently, their legitimate revenue work. It has also enabled the Government to effect a reduction in the number of taluks and divisions".

If that were the case, certainly, we can give the Tahsildars a trial in the matter. The Assistant Tahsildars were called into existence at a time when the Tahsildars were overburdened with all manner of work. These works have now been taken away from them. We have not given the Tahsildar anything like a proper trial to see whether he can cope with the work that has been assigned to the Land Records Maintenance staff. In the absence of such experiment, the continuance of the Assistant Tahsildars is based on conjecture only, though I have been listening carefully to the arguments urged by Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar and Mr. Krishna Pillai.

PRESIDENT: It is not correct to say that we have not added to the work of the Tahsildar. The income tax work, for example, is being done by him.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The income tax work is not a very serious work as will be seen from the amount collected. That certainly cannot counterbalance the work that has already been taken away from him. If this House is not satisfied that the Tahsildar is not really able to cope with the work, it will be time enough to consider the appointment of a fresh agency when that is established.

With these observations, I support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I also wish to speak a few words in this connection. We had a lot of discussion about the matter. I do not want to repeat the arguments advanced on this subject. After hearing the official and the non-official sides, there seems to be one point on which both sides agree, that is to say, that the Assistant Tahsildar is an unpopular man. Of course, from the official side it has been suggested that he ought to be so, because he has to deal with *pora uboke* trespasses. My reply to that is, that then every Magistrate and every Munsiff must be equally unpopular as they are dealing with criminal and civil trespasses. Still I fail to see why one class of the officers should be unpopular even if they do not go astray. We do not get a general cry that the Munsiff or the Magistrate is unpopular. So the reason alleged by the official side as to the

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

unpopularity of the Assistant Tahsildars does not appeal to me. But on the other hand, as has been observed by many of the speakers on this side of the House, it will be seen that not only the constituencies which have returned us, but also ourselves are more or less satisfied that their retention is not justifiable. It will be seen from one of the answers elicited by my friend Mr. Panjikaran that before 1095, arrears with regard to this work were managed without the assistance of the Tahsildars and the fear was not so great as it is now. Perhaps there must have been progress.

PRESIDENT: Arrears were not brought to light.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): The comparative statement of work which has been furnished does not speak in favour of Assistant Tahsildars. Though there was a separate agency appointed to work out and clear the arrears, the percentage of result is not quite satisfactory.

PRESIDENT: I think it was explained. The Tahsildars were formerly disposing of cases which did not involve any real work, where as here each case involves sub-division work on the field.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Anyhow, as has been pointed out from this side of the House, I am of opinion that it is good to give the Tahsildars a proper trial before any further amount is spent on Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Last time, Sir, at the time of the general discussion of the budget there was a consensus of opinion that the Assistant Tahsildars must go. Later on, when the motion for demands came up for discussion, several of the non-official members opposed it. The Deputy President opposed it on the ground that by its abolition a large body of well-educated men will have to be suddenly thrown out of employment at the beginning of their official career. A few of us came to the Council with a predisposition against Assistant Tahsildars; but afterwards when new sources of information and light penetrated into our heads, we thought we would wait and see whether the Assistant Tahsildars would justify their existence. A few of us suggested that in the light of the facts that Devaswom work had been separated and that magisterial powers were also taken away from the Tahsildars, it would be possible to make a re-adjustment of work. My friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai was one of those who suggested that the Tahsildar ought to be given a trial and I believe he is now repeating the same suggestion. My humble contention then was that their number should be reduced by two-thirds. Sir, much has been said about Taluk Surveyors who have been characterised at the last budget discussion as bloodsuckers. Now, a large volume of opposition against Assistant Tahsildars in this House also shows that he is not a popular man. What I infer from this is that it is because of the nature of the work entrusted to him. The work of finding out

poramboke encroachments and checking measurements of survey numbers is bound to be unpopular, since the survey records are faulty and field measurements are admitted to be wrong. So also the sub-division sketches. That is because the settlement classifier did the work mainly on paper without going to the actual spot and surveying sub-division numbers and because of the classifier having done it much later than the survey. It is with these faulty records that the present Taluk Surveyors or Assistant Tahsildars have to go to the spot and verify the measurements. Naturally, therefore, owing to the existing mistakes, his work is bound to create discontent among the people. We have to remember at the same time that the Taluk Surveyor had not all the facilities which are now being given to the Assistant Tahsildars. When questioned, Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar said that a Taluk Surveyor had one accountant and an Assistant Tahsildar has now about seven.

PRESIDENT: That is a mistake. He said one accountant for each *pakuthi*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): There are 867 men altogether for 116 *pakuthies*.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has included peons also.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The surveyor had to depend ordinarily on the normal *pakuthi* staff. At most times the *pakuthi* staff will have to attend upon somebody or other and the work naturally had to suffer. At any rate, it is now admitted that the Tahsildar is relieved of some of his work. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar was telling us that a clear case was made out for the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars. I would ask whether a case has been made out for the retention of *all* the Assistant Tahsildars. It was stated last year by Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar, Mr. Robinson's predecessor, that:

"The disposal of revenue cases, and in the case of some Tahsildars, magisterial cases, also treasury work, income tax work, collection work, and the general administration work of the taluk will not enable the Tahsildar *without some assistance* to attend to the land records maintenance work as well, especially now when that work is so much in arrears, owing to the incomplete condition of land records".

Mr. Raja Raja Varma also who has considerable practical experience and practical working of the land records maintenance work remarked:

"Although Government had made more or less spasmodic efforts in previous years to clear off the arrears, it has not been possible for them to do so *with the normal staff*".

So that both these experienced revenue officers have admitted that with *some* assistance the present Tahsildar could manage the work. It does not matter whether the assistance given to the present Tahsildar is in the shape of Taluk Surveyor or Assistant Tahsildar. I submit there need not be any quarrel about the name given to these unpleasant subordinates. The Tahsildars or his subordinates will be unpopular so long as the nature of the work they have to do is of this kind. As Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar and the Land Revenue Commissioner told us, the land records maintenance work is being done by the special staff excepting the disposal of land acquisition cases. If that be the policy, either

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

this much-maligned Tahsildar must go or all this L. R. M. establishment must go. I have also to draw the attention of the House to the fact that a portion of the work might be done by the Survey Superintendent's office. It is ordinarily a temporary office in every country. We have got a Survey Superintendent on Rs. 500, four Head Surveyors on Rs. 75-100 and eleven other Surveyors and other highly paid litho-draftsman and others costing Rs. 96,000. I think they are devoting their time to *puduval* sketches and plotting the areas. I suppose that is quite an unnecessary work. These surveyors might be dragged out of their den and made to do the work. Personally I have to travel much. It is about fourteen years since I saw the Survey Superintendent and I should like to know how he looks, as I have not been able to see him. I submit the Head Surveyors are very good men for doing --

PRESIDENT: We are not dealing with survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Considerable re-adjustment of the work could be made by rendering suitable help to the Tahsildar.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, from the trend of arguments made by my learned brothers on this side of the House and the counter-arguments advanced by the learned officers on the other side of the House—one for abolishing and the other for retaining the Assistant Tahsildars—I am at a loss to know whose position is maintainable. Can it be that the Government are bent upon wasting money by the retention of Assistant Tahsildars? It can hardly be so; and I cannot also think that the representatives of the people have come down here to throw obstacles in the way of Government in working the Government machinery as smooth as possible. The solution of this problem is a serious one. A compromise should be effected in the interests of the people at large and it cannot be done without forgetting the last sentence of the memorable message of His Highness the Maha Raja to this august assembly which runs as follows:—

"I look up with confidence to you and to the officers of my Government *to work in harmony, trying your best to understand each other* and in a spirit of confidence and sympathy, making the welfare of my beloved subjects *your common concern.*"

I should like to have this passage written in gold characters and hung in a conspicuous place in this Hall for constant reference and to serve as a guide to the members of this Council.

To respect the command of His Highness the Maha Raja and to work in harmony, I am strongly of opinion that this House should support the Government in retaining the post of Assistant Tahsildars if they are of opinion that, in the interests of people whom we have the honor to represent, the Assistant Tahsildars are highly necessary at present.

MR. T K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, Mr. Karayalar with true devotion and loyalty has reminded us of the

gracious message of His Highness the Maha Raja to the Legislative Council. I also take my stand on the very sentence quoted by him. I wish the officers who represent Government in this Council will also remember those sentences and try to work in harmony with us.

The Assistant Tahsildar, Sir, is both sinned against and sinning. We, sitting in this Council, dislike him because we have, year after year, to vote his salary. The people of Travancore dislike him because he has to work a very unpopular regulation. My friend Mr. Nidiry pointed out that the unpopularity of an Assistant Tahsildar, is not different from the unpopularity of a magistrate. There is one qualification, Sir, which presents itself to my mind. With regard to cases decided by magistrates, a magistrate can give a judgment only in favour of one party so that if he gives an adverse judgment to one party, he will have the gratitude of the party in favour of whom he gave his judgment. But the decisions of the Assistant Tahsildars are often given in favour of Government. Government being an impersonal abstraction, the same kind of gratitude is not available to the Assistant Tahsildar. I find it very difficult to accept certain arguments brought before the House. I know, as a matter of fact, that the Assistant Tahsildar is not only unpopular but he likes to be relieved of his duties, as early as possible. (*Laughter.*) A good number of young men, plucky fellows with plenty of education have told me that it was a great mistake in their lives that they accepted the Assistant Tahsildarship, because day in and day out they have to work in the hot sun in order to get on. He is invariably looked upon as a surveyor while as a matter of fact the Tahsildar is looked up to as a great officer. Officers on the other side, the Chief Secretary, Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, Mr. Robinson and others, who have considerable experience of field work, with very great emphasis, pointed out that it is absolutely necessary that the system of Assistant Tahsildars should be maintained, while on the other, representatives of the people on this side of the House say that whatever be the results, the Assistant Tahsildars should be abolished. I may point out that the Revenue Department has not been doing its work satisfactorily for a very long time. Last year, this time, I quoted from Hon'ble Mr. Ramaiengar's Settlement Memorandum to the effect that even at that time this disappointment had gone to such an extent and the demarcation work etc., were heavily in arrears. Enquiries were ordered and Dewan after Dewan who presided over the administration has been very vigilant; and yet the revenue officers did not do their work well. The present Dewan, soon after assuming charge, pointed out this defect and introduced the new arrangement. The very next year, the Dewan pointed out in his address to the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the Assistant Tahsildars had not been doing their work properly. From all these I want to show that the Government have been for some time past trying to give a quietus to this most difficult matter. The Revenue Department, Sir, I must observe, is in a state of flux. This morning we heard that the areas of the *pakuthies* have to be modified, that they have to be divided, that either

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

the Devicolam Commissioner or the Assistant to the Commissioner should be abolished and that suitable arrangement made for the efficient conduct of the income tax work in the Revenue Department. To my mind, it appears there is a host of these difficulties in future. We must have a regular methodised system of land revenue administration. If Government only make rules and if the officers do not do their work, if at the end of the year Government come to us in order to sanction the amount, we are really in a difficult situation. If, on the other hand, before these schemes are pushed on, Government would refer the whole question to a body of competent men and follow a systematic scheme, the difficulties could be averted. However as the Government have come to the Council for the grant I should take my stand on the usual constitutional practice. We will ask to redress all our grievances. Having accepted the arrangement of Assistant Tahsildars and having undertaken to give the grant, my point is that, if the Government will give an undertaking that before next year this time, they will be pleased to appoint an efficient committee to consider this question and place the measure before this Council for its consideration and acceptance, I for one would not like to disturb the arrangement as the work has been partly done. We should allow the staff in order to expedite that work. I personally am of opinion that the work should be continued, but on this distinct understanding, that the whole question of revenue administration will be looked into and decided. Another aspect is that this Council has to decide whether the Assistant Tahsildars should be continued or not after considering all connected matters.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, there are few arrears in *pokkuvaravu* cases, and it is desirable that these cases are disposed of.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A little louder, please.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I see that a few cases are in arrears and I am very desirous that these cases are disposed of. I sincerely believe that the Tahsildars now relieved of the magisterial and Devaswom work will be able to clear off these arrears. Even granting for argument's sake that the Tahsildars will not be able to clear off these arrears, I think we shall not be justified in continuing the existence of the Assistant Tahsildars for another moment. As far as I have been able to understand from Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar, the principal work of the Assistant Tahsildars is detection of *poramboke* cases and correction of the measurements of the last settlement. That is the most objectionable part of their work. I do not mean to say that the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja like to trespass on *poramlokes*. The fact is that the last survey settlement measurements are incorrect. As a matter of fact, small canals that were in existence at the time of the settlement and which measured only 10 or 11 links, now measure 50 links. There are very many instances of this

kind. Moreover, cocoanut trees which appear to be 80 years and more old are, according to the present survey measurement, in *porambokes*. There are a number of judical pronouncements and pronouncements from the heads of administration that the old measurements are incorrect. Under these circumstances, I submit that to detect these cases and to treat them as *poramboke* cases is unjust. The only thing is that these lands are not treated as they ought to have been. Our compounds are not regular squares or parallelograms. There may be curves in the corners. There may be juttings into rivers and canals. At the time of the last survey, these curves were not taken into consideration. Now these are considered as *porambokes* whereas, as a matter of fact, they are not. My opinion is that to continue the officers for another moment would be unjust. It will be a great hardship to the people and due to no fault of theirs. The Government servants employed for land settlement have erred, and now to make the people suffer and pay the penalty for the errors of the Government servants would, I submit, be rather very hard. I would earnestly request Government not to take up these cases, not because the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja who have trespassed should be allowed to continue there, but because the past work is unsatisfactory and because, unless a re-survey is undertaken by Government, this kind of detection of *porambokes* would cause great hardship. For these reasons, more than for any other, I support the motion which has been so ably moved by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pathanamtitta*): I move for a closure.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I second it.

The motion for closure was then put to the House and carried.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I have nothing more to add.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, it has been suggested by some of the members that the Assistant Tahsildars may be disbanded, the Taluk Surveyors restored to the taluks, the permanent accountants and peons reverted to the *pakuthies* and the land records work done by the normal *pakuthi* staff under the supervision of the Tahsildar, and presumably subject to the professional control and guidance of the Superintendent of Survey and his Assistant. This will mean a complete reversion to the state of affairs that existed before the 1st Kumbhom, 1096, when the present scheme was introduced. The arrangement proposed was the one that obtained between 1090 and 1096 and it has had a good trial for a period of six and a half years. How unsatisfactory this arrangement was, and the state of confusion to which matters drifted, have been clearly explained in the words of the Superintendent of Survey in the preamble to G. O. No. 12134/L. R., dated the 30th December, 1920, introducing the present scheme. It is to avoid the evils of the old system that the present arrangements were carefully thought out and introduced and it will be unfortunate if this House should, at a stage when things have

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

gone on for two and a half years and a fair progress has been achieved and when the Assistant Tahsildars have by past experience secured a grasp of their work, decide to go back on the scheme and revert to the former arrangements. It is hardly necessary to argue the point that the Assistant Tahsildars are a superior lot as compared with the Taluk Surveyors of old and if, in the discharge of their work there is so much complaint, on the ground of encroachment cases being taken, surely matters will not be any the better, if instead, the Taluk Surveyors are put on the work. The latter men have been tried between the years 1084 and 1096 and they were deliberately replaced by the present Assistant Tahsildars. Even if the Council should decide to give the Taluk Surveyors a few additional accountants and peons, they will not be able to do the revenue and survey work which the Assistant Tahsildars are now doing and there will be no comparison between the quality of work as done by the two sets of officers. The real thing that stands in the way of normal revenue staff going on with current land records work is the heavy volume of arrears under sub-division work and the inability of the *pakuthi* staff to clear them. This is due to the long interval that has elapsed from the time of the last survey to this date. If, therefore, as in British India, the arrears are worked off, and the future maintenance of land records saddled upon the normal revenue staff, things should work smoothly. Further, the Tahsildars with their present multifarious duties will not be able to spend 20 to 25 days in a month in the *pakuthies*, like the Assistant Tahsildars, to supervise the work of the accountants, even if it is presumed that they possess the requisite amount of technical knowledge of survey, to check their work. This is the reason for the appointment of specially trained men as Assistant Tahsildars. It is easily said that the Tahsildar's hands are free because the magisterial, Devaswom and Maramat work have been taken away from them. The correspondence and other work connected with Devaswoms was but nominal and there was no appreciable work under Maramat in most of the taluks. What little work had to be done under the latter item was primarily looked after by the *Aminadar* attached to the taluk, and the saving of time to the Tahsildars under this item is very little. It has to be admitted that some appreciable relief has been afforded to some of the Tahsildars under magisterial work. But the reduction of work secured under the above three items is more than compensated by the income tax work which has been newly given to them from the beginning of 1097. The Income Tax Regulation is a very intricate regulation to work, and judging from the number of assessees, the Tahsildars have a large share of the work, as they had 1,076 assessees out of 2,245 assessees for the whole State in 1097. The institution of the annual *Jamabandy* which is so necessary for good revenue administration is another new item of work which the Tahsildars have to do, so that it is idle to say that the Tahsildars' work has been reduced and that they have much leisure for taking up more work. The Assistant Tahsildars have made over to the

Tahsildars 35,903 encroachment cases; and of these the latter were able to dispose of only 10,926 cases or 30 per cent. before the close of Edavam 1098. There are therefore 24,977 cases still pending with them and more cases will be transferred to them by the Assistant Tahsildars in future months. Owing to the labours of the *Puduval* survey staff and the land records staff, 69,518 acres of *puduval* lands have been surveyed and made available for registry till the end of Medam 1098. Proceedings for the registry of this area have to be taken. At the close of Medam 1098, the Tahsildars had on their files 12,080 *puduval* cases pending disposal. It will therefore be physically impossible for the Tahsildars to find time to clear off the arrears of land records work, if the Assistant Tahsildars are withdrawn and even if the special staff is transferred to the Tahsildars. They have also to attend to the future maintenance of land records in those *pakuthies* in which the arrears have been cleared and from which the special staff has been withdrawn. When the full-time Assistant Tahsildars are finding it tough to cope with the work, it will surely not be possible for the Tahsildars, with their multifarious duties, to take up and work off the arrears of land records work. Even at the risk of tiring the patience of this House, I shall mention the main items of work which Tahsildars have to do at present.

PRESIDENT : It hardly arises here, Mr. Robinson.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : May I ask Mr. Robinson before he sits down whether he has any middle course to suggest between the position of the Government and that of the non-official members?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income-tax Commissioner*) : I don't think there is any middle course possible. I can accept Mr. Velu Pillai's suggestion to try the Assistant Tahsildars for the two years spoken of in July last. Those two years have not expired.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Kumara Pillai, do you press your motion for a division?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT : Before I put the motion to vote, I would say one word by way of explanation in regard to one or two misunderstandings by Mr. Panjikaran and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai *viz.*, that the existing survey is inaccurate, and that the work of the Assistant Tahsildars could not be fruitful. Granting that the existing survey is wrong, as it is in some cases, what is the remedy that you suggest? You suggest a re-survey. What are the Assistant Tahsildars now doing? They are doing supplemental survey where the framework is good. They correct errors in the original plottings and detect *porambokes* where they have been left out. Suppose we sanction a resurvey. There will be a re-survey party. What is it going to consist of? It is going to consist of men who are, in status, equal to the Assistant Tahsildars, or

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very probably, inferior to them. The quality of work done must certainly be much inferior to that of the Assistant Tahsildars who by their training and educational qualifications are much more fitted for the work. Re-survey in a taluk will take one or two years. The cost may be a lakh or two. The work will be rushed through and the quality of the work will be unsatisfactory. The existing survey is not generally wrong but whenever it is wrong the Assistant Tahsildars correct it and the object of the Assistant Tahsildars' supplemental survey is to set at rest all disputes once for all.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai said that copies of the *ozhugus* cannot be obtained. Copies should and would certainly be supplied. I have issued circulars to that effect. Only ten days ago I issued a circular that copies of *ozhugus* should not be with-held for non-payment of dues and must be supplied promptly.

I hope I have made myself clear. The work expected by re-survey is being done more satisfactorily than by a re-survey party.

As regards suits, I see Mr. Robinson has failed to reply. I find that the number of such suits filed against Government in 1097 and 1098 is actually less than that of the previous years. We have not collected information about notices of suits. My distinct impression is that they are not on the increase.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What about the *poramboke* cases that have been detected on account of the incorrect measurements?

PRESIDENT: We have got to go into each case and decide, and the whole procedure has been described at great length by Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar. The thing has got to be taken up and gone through at some time or other. The sketch has to be prepared and opportunities given to the occupier to show that it is not *poramboke*, and each case has to be decided on its own merits.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): It will be a very great hardship to the poor victims.

PRESIDENT: If you do not set at rest these disputes now, you will be giving a powerful weapon to the subordinates to harass the people.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put this motion to vote. The motion was then put to the vote and lost, 19 voting *for* and 25 *against*.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I demand a poll.

The House then divided as follows:

AYES-20.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai
2. „ A. Govinda Menon.
3. „ A. Hoogewerf
4. „ C. Kochukunju Pillai.
5. „ S. Krishna Aiyar.
6. „ T. Kumara Pillai.
7. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman.
8. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
9. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikapalli.
10. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
11. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
12. „ J. John Nidiry.
13. „ M. N. Pillai.
14. „ N. Padmanabha Pillai.
15. „ Joseph Panjikaran.
16. „ K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
17. „ G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
18. „ N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
19. „ K. P. Raman Pillai.
20. „ T. K. Velu Pillai.

NOES-26.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ Paul V. Daniel
3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai
4. „ K. George
5. „ L. C. Hodgson
6. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
7. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar
8. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai
9. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
10. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan
11. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai
12. „ John Mackie
13. „ K. C. Mammen Mappillai
14. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
15. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
16. „ P. Paramesvaran.
17. „ W. H. Pitt.
18. „ K. C. Raja Raja Varma.
19. „ C. Ramankunju.
20. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
21. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
22. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
23. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
24. „ S. Subramanya Karayalar.
25. „ A. J. Van Ross
26. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar.

Motion 17.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

17. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,289 for Assistant Tahsildars and peons by Rs. 17,000.

I have already indicated in my speech that a medium course is possible, as the present Tahsildars are considerably relieved owing to the separation of the Devaswom and magisterial functions and by the diversion of all the revenue survey parties and employment of all the taluk surveyors and half the number of Assistant Tahsildars. I submit that it would be possible for them to go on with the land records work and make it current. For these reasons I make this motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say than what I have already said. I beg to oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: Has any other gentlemen anything to say?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I shall say a word, Sir. If the Assistant Tahsildars are able to do any work and if their work is to the advantage of the State, I am for having

[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

the scheme worked throughout the State. But there is no necessity to try the experiment in some taluks so that some taluks may be in a position of vantage in this matter. If the work is good, it must be extended to all the taluks. If it is bad, it must be abandoned. On that ground I support the motion.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, the fact that the Tahsildars have, of late, been relieved of the Devaswom and magisterial work has led many to think that the retention of the Assistant Tahsildar is not necessary. But, on earnest enquiry, I learn that they have sufficient work to do. The Tahsildars appear as if they have been placed in hot water and as if great pressure has been brought to bear upon them. Unless a Tahsildar is both physically and mentally capable, I think, he would not be able to do his work satisfactorily. Sir, in a conversation between two officers I heard one officer warning the other not to try for a Tahsildar's place since, at present, it would be very difficult to perform the duties of a Tahsildar to the satisfaction of the Government. So Sir, from what I was able to learn and observe, I think the Tahsildars have sufficient work to do. The opinion therefore, that the Tahsildars would be able to do the work of the Assistant Tahsildars as well is wrong.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): ஜனங்களுடைய பணத்தை அவர்களுக்கு உபகாரமில்லாமல் செலவு செய்யவேணுமென்று கெவண்மென்றுக்கு உத்தேசமே அல்லா. ஆனால் இப்போது அஸிஸ்டென்று தகஸில்தார் உத்தியோகம் வேண்டாம். வேண்டாமென்று ஒவ்வொருவரும் சொல்லப்பட்ட உத்தேசம் வேறொன்றுமல்லா. முன்செய்திட்டுள்ள சர்வே அளவு சரியல்லா என்றும் அதை சரிபார்க்காமலும் பரிசோதிக்காமலும் புறம்போக்கும் சப்டிவிஷனும் (sub-division) மாத்திரம் பார்த்து வருகிறார்கள் என்றும் அதுகொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு பிரயோஜனமுமில்லை என்றும் ஜனங்களுக்கு உபத்திரபத்தைத்தான் கொடுத்துவருகிறார்களென்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. அதினால் இப்போது அஸிஸ்டென்று தகஸில்தார்மார் செய்யப்பட்ட வேலையை நிறுத்தி அவர்களைகொண்டு மெல் ரிசர்வே செய்யசொன்னால் நலமாயிருக்குமென்றும் என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். தவிரவும் இப்போது அக்கவுண்டென்று (accountant) யாரைகொண்டு இத்தனை இத்தனை நம்பர் பரிசோதித்தால்தான் சம்பளமெனறும் அடங்கலாயிகொடுத்து வருகிற ஏர்ப்பாடும் நிறுத்தணம். அவர்களுடைய அடங்கல் பிரகாரமுள்ள வேலைகளை தீர்க்கமுடியாமல் விட்டிருந்தே கணக்குகள் கொடுத்து வருகிற ஏர்ப்பாட்டினால் ஒரு பிரயோசனமுமில்லை. முன்ஸர்வே செய்தபலன்தான். முன் கழிந்த ஸர்வே அளவை வச்சுபார்த்தால் ஒன்றும் சரிப்பட மாட்டாது. முன் பன்னிரண்டாமாண்டு கண்டெழுத்தின்பேரில் பதிஞ்ச பூமி யப்போது பார்த்தால் பிரம்போக்காயிருக்கும். அது குடிகளுக்கு தெரியாது. அதை இப்போது பிரம்போக்கு சட்டப்பிரகாரம் எடுத்து அவர்களை சிக்ஷிக்கிறதாயிருந்தால் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டம்தான், அஸிஸ்டெ

ன்று தகசில்தார் செய்திட்டுள்ள தீர்மானம் சரியல்லவென்று மேல்அப்பில் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமானால் செலவும் கஷ்டமும் நஷ்டமும் சேரப்படுகிறது. ஆனதினால் பாவப்பட்ட குடிகள் தன் பூமியையும் விளைந்த நஷ்டத்துக்கும் ஆளாக வேண்டியதாய்வருகிறது.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I support the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai for the reason that, since the Assistant Tahsildars are intended to work off the arrears in such Taluks where the Government think that the arrears are very heavy, they may employ the 13 Assistant Tahsildars that Mr. Raman Pillai wants to be retained. So that if the entire scheme cannot be abandoned at least, to the extent of 13 Tahsildars, there can be a reduction and I therefore heartily support the scheme.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I regret to find that Mr. Robinson opposes this alternative scheme thereby making himself inconsistent with the position which his predecessor in office took up this time last year. He said that, with some assistance, the Tahsildars will be in a position to go on with the Land Records Maintenance work and I also drew the attention of the House to the statement made by Mr. M. Raja Raja Varma to the effect that some of the work the Tahsildars themselves will be able to do. If that is so, I submit that to oppose the motion in its entirety would be to make the position of Government inconsistent with what they declared last year. I think it is wrong to divide the work of a Taluk and appoint a special man to look after that work. According to what I consider right, the Tahsildar must be entirely responsible for the quality and quantity of work done. The Assistant Tahsildar will be a sort of technical supervising officer as the sub-assistant was during the days of taluk surveyors. My friend Mr. Velu Pillai is wrong when he assumes that the good or the evil of the Assistant Tahsildars will be confined to a few taluks; that is not the purport of my scheme. He will be supervising the maintenance work in more than one taluk; three or four taluks will be clubbed together for the purpose of supervision.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask where that scheme was adumbrated? I did not find it in his speech.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I plead guilty for not having adumbrated that scheme. I think the House agreed for some cut being made on the Assistant Tahsildar motion. (*Laughter*). I was confident that the Government or the Land Revenue Commissioner would come forward with some scheme when it would be time for the House to consider it. So I did not come forward with the scheme. I have a cut and ready scheme. My submission is that for three or four taluks there should be an Assistant Tahsildar who will take the place of the old Survey Sub-Assistant. The supervision now exercised by the Land Records Superintendent is entirely inadequate because for the whole State there is only one person to supervise the work, the Assistant Tahsildar doing practical field work. So that if this is done, we shall be

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taking full advantage of the technical and educational qualification and superior training given to the Assistant Tahsildar. The good or evil of his work will be enjoyed by all the taluks in the State. So I press the motion.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to say much on this point. The House has agreed that the Assistant Tahsildars are necessary. I am not inconsistent about it as Mr. Raman Pillai says, because the matter has been very carefully considered and the present full staff proposed for the land records is absolutely necessary. If the staff is reduced, it will necessarily take a longer time for the work to be completed. The more you reduce, the more difficult it is to carry out the present programme, and longer time will be required to complete the work.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 15 voting *for* and 25 *against*.

Motions 18 to 24.

The following motions were not made:

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

18. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by Rs. 44,375 (abolition of the temporary establishment).

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

19. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,09,561 for land records establishment by Rs. 44,375 (abolition of the temporary establishment).

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

20. To omit the allotment of Rs. 33,880 for temporary accountants and peons.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

21. To omit the allotment of Rs. 90 for hot weather charges.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

22. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,695 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 2,960.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

23. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

24. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

Motion 25.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to make the following motion:

25. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,53,440 for land records establishment by Rs. 100.

The object of my motion is to draw the attention of this House to the change that has been brought about by the new scheme whereby the

Assistant Tahsildars are from 1099 transferred to the Land Records Superintendent's office from the Land Revenue Department. It would appear that then there will be no duality of control between the Division Peishkar and the Land Revenue Commissioner on the one hand and the Land Records Superintendent on the other. Sir, it will be conceded that the Land Records Maintenance work forms an important part of the regular Land Revenue Administration and that being so I cannot support a scheme which aims at separating the controlling agencies of the two departments. The Assistant Tahsildars will not hereafter be controlled by the Division Peishkar or the Tahsildar. On principle, I seriously object to such a proposal. For, ultimately, the Tahsildars and Peishkars are really responsible for the proper administration of the Land Revenue Department. It is entirely erroneous to transfer these Assistant Tahsildars from the Land Revenue Department to the Land Records Superintendent under the immediate control only of the Land Records Superintendent. On that principle I move for the reduction of Rs. 100.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I have made clear when making my first speech that the land records staff will only be attending to the technical part of the work and the rest of the work will have to be solely examined and done by the Tahsildars, and the Assistant Tahsildars will still be under the control of the Land Revenue Commissioner.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I want to know whether the Dewan Peishkar will have any control over the Assistant Tahsildars' work hereafter.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Not under the contemplated change.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, in regard to the deviation proposed in the working out of the scheme in 1099 referred to by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, I would say that it was done with a view to avoid the delay in the transmission of correspondence from the Assistant Tahsildar to the Tahsildar and Peishkar and then to the Land Records Superintendent and *vice versa*. This arrangement is also calculated to ensure greater out-turn of work The Assistant Tahsildars are doing intensive land records work. So far as *porambokes* are concerned, the Assistant Tahsildar surveys and demarcates areas, and in cases of encroachments, a sketch and *mahazar* and a report are prepared and sent to the Tahsildar. The latter takes further action under the Land Conservancy Regulation, and if the occupation is unobjectionable, to register or lease the area covered by the encroachment. Similarly, in the case of puduval sub-division work, the sketches are prepared by the Assistant Tahsildar and transferred to the Tahsildar. He starts further action to assign lands under the *Puduval* Rules. In regard to *pokkuvaravu* cases, orders passed in the cases by the Assistant Tahsildar are transferred to the Tahsildar, and he issues *pattas*. There is therefore no break in the continuity of work even in the altered arrangement proposed for 1099. Neither

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

the Peishkar nor the Tahsildar need have any supervision over the land records work until the arrears are cleared and the records are made over to the Tahsildar *pakuthi* by *pakuthi* as their technical work is supervised by the officer competent for the purpose, *i. e.*, the Land Records Superintendent. The Tahsildar will thereafter be responsible for the future maintenance of land records. The Assistant Tahsildars will work directly under the Land Records Superintendent and correspond direct with him. The Land Records Superintendent will check the work of the Assistant Tahsildars and the whole work will be subject to the superior control of the Land Revenue Commissioner. This is done with a view to clear off the arrears within the shortest time possible.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 26.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I proposed a cut of Rs. 5 with the view that in case the Assistant Tahsildars are to go—

PRESIDENT: Are you moving the motion?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am giving it up with an explanation.

PRESIDENT: If you do not move, you cannot make any explanation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am just submitting the explanation and then I am withdrawing the motion. It was in view of the fact that the Land Records Superintendent has got a higher pay for his work but in view of the fact that the original motion against the Assistant Tahsildars was lost, I allow this also to be sacrificed along with that. (*Laughter*).

The following motion was not made:

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

26. To reduce the allotment for land records establishment by Rs. 5.

Motions 27 to 31.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

27. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 10,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

28. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 9,020.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

29. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,116 for field establishment by Rs. 9,020.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

30. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for local allowances to field establishment.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

31. To omit the allotment of Rs. 11,440 for head quarters office staff (under temporary puduval survey staff).

Motion 32.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:

32. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875, for establishment for a party for original survey work.*

Last year also this party came in for a cut and it was decided to abolish one of them. I find this is an unnecessary work. The *puduvals* are not being sold. When there are applications, it will be time enough to survey them and divide them into blocks while the checking of the measurement of the sub-divisions of the minor circuits could very well be undertaken by the existing land records maintenance party. Since there is this original survey party the Survey Superintendent and a large body of high-paid surveyors are engaged on this work and thereby their services are not available for work in connection with land records maintenance. I think if this reduction is made, the entire staff of the Survey Superintendent will be available for the land records maintenance work and along with his assistants he can go on with the work in certain taluks of the State. This will also help to expedite the abolition of the Revenue Survey Department sooner than it would otherwise be possible, because there is no knowing how long this original survey will take to finish. For these reasons, I move that this sum may be omitted.

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The Puduval Survey operations as is known to the Members of the House were started in the year 1096 and it has been going on since then. This scheme was introduced with a view to take up systematically and complete the supplemental survey required for facilitating the disposal of Puduval lands in such of the taluks in which there were large areas of *puduval* lands to be surveyed and assigned. According to the forecast made in the year 1096, the total area of the survey was 2,02,788 acres. Deducting the area already registered, there remained an area of 1,11,194 acres for survey and this area was supplemented subsequently by 24,282 acres by further lists furnished by the Revenue Department. So in all, the operation had to be confined to 1,35,476 acres.

PRESIDENT: This is a provision for original survey work. You have to explain the necessity for the allotment of Rs. 6,875.

Mr. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The allotment is necessary for completing the 5052 acres that remains to be surveyed.

Mr. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: I will repeat what Mr. Robinson said. He said that this provision is for original survey work of 5000 and odd acres.

Mr. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In which taluk, please?

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*): In the taluks of Kottarakara, Pattanapuram, Kunnattur and Pattanamtitta.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know from Mr. Robinson whether this is covered by the applications already existing on the file or merely to facilitate future applications.

PRESIDENT: Many applications are pending.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether this survey is to facilitate the disposal of applications now pending.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): At the last budget session of this Council, the Council decided that no *new* minor circuits need be taken up for survey in view of the paucity of land applications. A small staff of surveyors was accordingly sanctioned for completing the original survey work in minor circuits which had already been taken up. That staff worked on to the end of the year but it was not able to finish the survey of the entire area in all those minor circuits which had been taken up. In 19 minor circuits, measuring on the whole 9,272 acres in the four taluks named by me, 4,220 acres have already been surveyed and there is a balance of 5,052 acres. The Survey Superintendent had instructions to take up for survey only those minor circuits for which there was a large demand as judged by the number of applications received. Unless therefore this House sanctions the amount for completing the survey of the 5,000 and odd acres, the survey of 4,220 acres already done in these minor circuits will have been done in vain. This staff is provided for finishing that work in 1099.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know, Sir, the total tax that is realisable on account of this original survey party since 1096?

PRESIDENT: On this area, you mean?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The total work of these original survey party in 1096. We were told that the money has been realised on account of *tharavila* and *thadivila*. My enquiry is what is the amount that is to come on account of the assignment of lands surveyed by the *puduval* survey party from 1096.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The exact amount is not known. Tax at one rupee per acre of land assigned is recoverable.

PRESIDENT: Approximately?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not the figures before me now.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 33 to 39.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the Demand had expired :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

33. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875 for establishment for a party for original survey works.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI —

34. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,875 for establishment for a party for original survey work.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

35. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,929 for establishment for three correction parties by Rs. 3,000.

Revenue Survey—Supplies, Services and Contingencies.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

36. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,622 for contingencies for temporary puduval staff by Rs. 4,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :—

37. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,289 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 1,720.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :—

38. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 78,975 for revenue survey by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :—

39. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8·77 lakhs under Demand – I by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT : The time allotted for this demand having been exhausted, I now place the whole demand before the House and move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8·77 lakhs—Rs. 100 be granted for this Demand.

The grant was made.
The House adjourned at 6-2 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 7th August, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Property Statements.

70. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the property statements submitted by the officers of Government are treated as confidential documents, so that copies thereof cannot be placed in the hands of the members of the Legislative Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the affirmative.

Landed Property Statements.

71. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement showing the landed property situate outside Travancore acquired by the officers of this State drawing a salary of Rs. 200 and above, either in their names or in the names of their wives and children, and also the money invested by them in banks or other concerns both in and outside Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Property owned by Mr. Van Ross.

72. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the landed property and other investments

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which Mr. Van Ross was holding in 1095, and the value of the landed property and other investments which he is now holding?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state what their objection is to placing the property statements of the officers before the members of this House?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Those statements are confidential.

Property Statements.

73. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamt tta*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why they receive the property statements of all officers drawing a salary of Rs. 40 and above?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the property of the Excise Commissioner during 1096, 1097 and 1098 respectively?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) To enable the Government to know the nature and extent of the properties and the localities where they are situated.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state why they want to know the nature and extent of the property owned by an officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are several reasons which it is not in the public interest to disclose.

South Indian Match Factory.

74. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) (i) When was permission granted to the South Indian Match Factory to establish itself in Travancore and do business?

(ii) How many times and for what term in each case was the period under the agreement extended?

(iii) Will the Forest Department be able to supply soft wood for the price fixed in the agreement entered into with the firm, and if so, will it lead to any, and what loss?

(iv) Who were the Conservators of Forests who had reported to Government that the agreement to supply soft wood to the match factory would result in loss to Government and that the period of the agreement should not be extended?

(v) Will the Government be pleased to lay their reports on the table?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the agreement entered into by the Government with the South Indian Match Factory Company?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) (i) In 1912.

(ii) Six extensions were in all given and the terms for which the period under the agreement was extended were as follow:—

			Period of extension.
First extension.	From 21-12-1915 to	21-12-1916.	One year.
Second extension.	From 21-12-1916 to	21-12-1918.	Two years.
Third extension.	From 21-12-1918 to	21-12-1920.	Do.
Fourth extension.	From 21-12-1920 to	21-12-1921.	One year.
Fifth extension.	From 21-12-1921 to	30-6-1922.	Six months.
Sixth extension.	From 31-7-1922 to	31-12-1922.	Do.

(iii) It is not possible now to supply without loss to Government soft woods at the rates mentioned in the original agreement and the principal terms of this agreement have now been modified in view to avert loss.

(iv) Mr. V. Rama Menon, late Conservator of Forests.

(v) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The agreement will be made available to the member for perusal.

A full statement* on the subject is laid on the table.

Kallar Committee.

75. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) For how many days did the Kallar Committee stay at the Kallar valley?

(*b*) Did they take any fresh measurements of the rainfall in the valley to ascertain the average rainfall of the place?

(*c*) Did the Committee receive any memorials or deputations regarding the Kallar Scheme, and, if so, how many and what for?

(*d*) What is the amount of expenditure necessitated by the institution of this Committee?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) For four days from the 3rd to the 6th Dhanu, 1098.

(*b*) The Committee did not take measurements of rainfall. They got records of the rainfall maintained at the Pampadampara Estate which is five miles from Kallar.

(*c*) The Committee received a deputation consisting of some people of Parur who presented a memorial protesting against the diversion of the Kallar water.

(*d*) Rs. 759 - Chs. 7—C. 8. This does not include the travelling allowances drawn by the official members.

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* *Vide* Appendix—page 323.

[MR. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Discussion of the Report of the Kallar Committee by the Legislative Council.

76. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to give an assurance that they will not take any action on the Kallar Committee's report before the Council has had an opportunity of discussing the report and expressing its opinion thereon?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to make any statement at this stage.

Kallar Scheme.

77. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): (i) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report submitted by the Committee appointed to re-examine the Kallar Hydro-Electric Scheme under the presidency of Dr. Kunjan Pillai?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to afford an opportunity to this Council to discuss the above report and consider the terms which Government propose to offer or have already offered to Messrs. Alfred Dickinson & Co., in the light of this report?

(iii) Has any agreement been arrived at or offer made by or to the Madras Government regarding the utilisation of the Kallar water proposed to be diverted to the Madura District in connection with the Kallar Scheme and regarding the rate at which payment will be made by that Government therefor? If so, will the Government be pleased to furnish the particulars thereof?

(iv) In view of the intense popular feeling in the matter, will the Government be pleased to allow this Council an opportunity of discussing the entire question of the Kallar Scheme before entering into final agreement with the Madras Government or any Company?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(i) to (iv) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 75.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state *why* it is not possible to make any statement on this subject? The answer referred to, *viz.*, that to question No. 75 is that it is not possible to make any statement at this stage.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because the matter is under correspondence between the Travancore Government and the Madras Government.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): Has any reply been received in regard to the rate to be paid for the water.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not prepared to say.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you the reply has not been received.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): May I know whether the Kallar Committee's report is ready to be published?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said that no statement could be made at this stage with regard to it. That is all that I can say.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): May I know why the report cannot be placed on the table of the Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already answered that question. The whole thing is at present confidential.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): I am referring only to the report submitted by the Committee constituted under the presidency of Dr. Kunjan Pillai. I want to know why that report cannot be placed on the table.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because the whole thing is confidential.

Abolition of the Chennitala Market.

78. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Mavelikara Municipality has recommended the discontinuance of the Chennitala market;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that the said market serves the population of four adjacent *karas* and that the proposed discontinuance would cause real hardship to them; and

(*c*) what action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) There is no market known by the name of Chennitala market and the one at Chennitala is called Karanma Market. If the member's interpellation is in reference to the Karanma Market, the answer to the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The proposal of the Municipal Council has been referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner for enquiry and report.

Re-establishment of the Magistrate's Court at Arukutty.

79. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any petition from the inhabitants of Arukutty and the adjoining places praying for the re-establishment of the Magistrate's Court at Arukutty?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to enquire into this matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(b) Government see no advantage in re-opening the matter at present.

Working of the Arms Regulation.

80. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the resolution passed at the last sitting of the Legislative Council regarding the changes in the rules under the Arms Regulation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Licenses under the Arms Rules.

81. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many fire-arms belonging to private individuals were pending return on the last day of Edavam, 1098, in the Kotamangalam station alone of the Muvattupuzha taluk, because the parties could not secure licenses to remove them?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of applications for licenses from the taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and Kunnatnad pending disposal on the last day of Edavam, 1098?

(c) Have the Government called for the explanations of the officers who were responsible for the delay in issuing licenses?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary action against the officers concerned and arrange for the speedy issue of licenses in future?

(e) Will the Government, in pursuance of the resolution passed at the last Session of the Council, be pleased to allow immediately, to persons paying a tax of above Rs. 100, to the past and present members of the Municipal Councils, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, and to people living in mountainous tracts where men, cattle and produce are subject to destruction by wild animals, the possession and use of fire-arms without license, to the first two throughout the State and to the last in the localities they live in?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) 58. The District Magistrate, Kottayam, has since reported that all applications for licenses for fire-arms have been disposed of.

(b) 15 applications were pending at the close of Edavam, 1098. All these have since been disposed of.

(c) Yes.

(d) Orders will be passed after the explanations are received. Instructions have been issued to the District Magistrates to dispose of all applications for licenses expeditiously and to despatch the licenses direct to the address of the applicants by Anchal to save delay.

(e) The member is referred to answer to interpellation No. 80.

Platform Bridge near Mulakulam Temple.

82. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that the wooden platform bridge on the northern side of the Mulakulam temple is in a dilapidated and dangerous condition and that accidents to animals and human beings commonly occur in consequence?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Attara Bridge on Vaikam-Vechur Road.

83. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*):

(*a*) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the Attara bridge on the Vaikam-Vechur road is in a dangerous condition and needs immediate repair?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the repair of this bridge at an early date?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is a provision of Rs. 1,000 for this work in the P. W. D. budget for 1099. The Chief Engineer will be asked to expedite the work.

Tuberculosis at Vaikam.

84. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any report has been received by them from the Medical Officer at Vaikam or the local Municipality that tuberculosis is steadily on the increase in the town of Vaikam, and if so, whether any enquiry has been made in the matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Drainage System in Vaikam Town.

85. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the necessity of making improvements in the drainage system of the town of Vaikam?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The Chief Engineer has been asked to take the necessary action in the matter.

Admission of Pulayas in Vechur and Manjur Primary Schools.

86. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that Pulayas are not given admission to the Vechur and Manjur Primary Schools;

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

(b) whether there is any objection to grant them admission to these schools, and, if so, what the nature of the objection is;

(c) whether they are aware that there are a large number of Pulaya children seeking admission to these schools, and that there are no other schools anywhere near where they could gain admission;

(d) whether they have received any complaint from Pulayas against their exclusion from these schools, and if so, whether any enquiry will be made into those complaints; and

(e) whether they will remove the above schools to more convenient sites, if they are inaccessible to all classes at present?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) Pulayas are not given admission to the Vechur Primary school, while the Manjur Primary school has been declared open to pupils of all classes.

(b) The objection to admit pupils to the Vechur school is due to its proximity to a temple.

(c) The Director reports that there are three primary schools in the Vechur pakuthi open to all classes.

(d) Petitions have been received and they have been forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for necessary action.

(e) The question of removing the Vechur school to an unobjectionable locality will be considered.

Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai, Police Inspector, Quilon, versus Editor, Kerala Chandrika.

87. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of a criminal case of defamation filed by the Quilon Police Inspector, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, against the Editor of the "Kerala Chandrika";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Inspector is still allowed to be at Quilon, where the case is going on, in spite of the accused's petitioning for his transfer to some other place while the case is pending; and

(c) whether the prosecution in this case is conducted at Government cost?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):
(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Government have agreed to recoup the expenses of the Inspector in the event of the prosecution being successful.

Rule 52 of the Registration Rules.

88. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*):
(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that Rule 52 of the Rules passed under Section 64 of the Registration Regulation is working great hardship in practice?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to modify the rule so as to allow registration officers to accept or record also the admission of the execution of documents of members of the same house other than those on whose requisition these officers are allowed to attend at private residences?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Representations to this effect have been made to the Government.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Collection of Sanskrit Manuscripts.

89. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any list of the manuscript copies obtained by the Curator has been preserved in his office or published by him, and, if so, whether any such list is available to the public;

(*b*) what the total number of the manuscripts collected by the Curator from the public is; and

(*c*) whether any of the manuscripts collected by the Curator has been returned to the owners thereof, and, if so, how many manuscripts have been so returned?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) A list is available and will be supplied to the member.

(*b*) 1312.

(*c*) 371.

Malayalam Pandit in the Curator's Office.

90. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any Pandit on the Curator's staff who has any knowledge of Malayalam literature?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The attention of the member is invited to the answer furnished to question No. 39 (*d*) asked by Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd November, 1922.

Irregularities in the Curator's Office.

91. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is a fact that copies of rare and valuable manuscripts collected at Government cost have been sold to foreign libraries and institutions by some of the Pandits on the Curator's staff; and, if so, whether the Curator is aware of any such transaction; and

(*b*) whether the Curator is allowed to undertake work on behalf of other States like Baroda and whether any such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government?

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Curator says that no copies of the manuscripts of his office have been sold by any Pandit on his staff. At the request of some institutions such as the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, the Calcutta University and such others as are engaged in the revival of Sanskrit learning, copies of a few manuscripts have been made at their cost and supplied to them.

(*b*) The Curator has used his spare time in editing a rare work on *silpasastra* the manuscripts of which were sent to him by the Government of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda. He says that he had the oral permission of the late Dewan Mr. M. Krishnan Nair to do this.

Touring Work of the Curator.

92. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state for how many days the Curator for the publication of Sanskrit Manuscripts was on circuit in 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Curator did not do any touring during 1097.

Copyright of Commentary on Kautilya's Arthasastra.

93. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Curator for the publication of Sanskrit Manuscripts has applied for the copyright of a commentary on Kautilya's *Arthasastra*; and

(*b*) whether the Government have made a gift to the Curator of five hundred copies of Kautilya's *Arthasastra*?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 250 copies of the book are to be given to Mr. Ganapati Sastri free of cost. 250 copies more of the book are to be printed in the Government Press and supplied to him, the quantity of paper required for the purpose being supplied by him and the striking and binding charges being also borne by him.

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 74.

THE SOUTH INDIAN MATCH FACTORY.

In August 1912, the Director of the South Indian Match Factory Company approached the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja, for facilities in the matter of land, timber and fuel required for a match factory which it proposed to establish at a place in the State between Quilon and Tenmalai. With a view to encourage this pioneer industry and improve the forests sylviculturally by the removal of soft woods which hindered the regeneration of more valuable hard woods and in view of the possibilities the industry would afford for consuming the numerous species of soft woods in the local forests for which there was no demand, the Government, in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, granted the company certain concessions. The terms of the concessions given to the Company are contained in G. O. No. 10508/L. R. and F. dated the 2nd October 1912, published in the Government Gazette dated the 23rd Kanni, 1088/18th October, 1912. An agreement was also entered into with the Company on the 21st December, 1912 embodying these terms. Under the terms of this agreement, the Government undertook to deliver to the Company at its factory 23,04,000 c. ft. of soft wood suitable for manufacturing splints, match boxes and packing cases within a period of twelve years, *viz.*, 3,60,000 c. ft. during the first three years, 10,80,000 c. ft. during the next five years and 8,64,000 c. ft. during the last four years, at 3 annas 6 pies per c. ft. during the first period, 4 annas 6 pies during the second period and 5 annas during the third period. The Government also undertook to supply fuel to the extent of the Company's requirements at the rate of Bh. Rs. 3-8-0 per ton for the first period, Bh. Rs. 4 for the next and Bh. Rs. 4-8-0 for the last period. It was also stipulated that, if at any time the Company was desirous of arranging for its own supply of timber and fuel, it could do so from the Government Forests in the vicinity of its factory free of cost during the first three years from the commencement of working, while seigniorage would be charged at the rate of 3 pies per c. ft. for soft wood and 4 annas per ton for fuel during the remaining nine years. There was besides an understanding that the Company should start building and other operations within three years from the date of the agreement.

After the execution of the agreement, the Company commenced work, placed orders for the required machinery and gave a contract for the construction of the factory and other buildings. The European War broke out at this stage and the works had to be suspended owing to circumstances beyond the Company's control, and Mr. V. Desikachari, the Managing Director of the Company, requested that Government might be pleased to extend the time for completing the buildings and starting operations, etc., by one year. The difficulties pointed out having been found to be real, the extension was sanctioned. This was

on the 17th December, 1915. Since then, five extensions of time covering a total period of six years ending the 31st December, 1922, have been granted to the Company, for similar reasons.

After the fourth extension was granted, Mr. Raman Menon, the late Conservator of Forests, brought to the notice of Government that the supply of soft wood and fuel by Government at the rates mentioned in the agreement would in all probability result in a loss of 50 lakhs of rupees to Government. But nothing could be done to back out of the agreement as the same could not be considered unenforcible. Government, however, ordered careful enquiries about the loss that might result, and Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, the present Conservator, reported after enquiry that, in estimating the loss at Rs. 50 lakhs, Mr. Raman Menon had committed a serious error in taking the total quantity of soft wood to be supplied at 99,36,000 c. ft. instead of 23,04,000 c. ft. and had also gone wrong in his other calculations ; that having due regard to the altered conditions now existing in regard to labour and taking the quantity of fuel at 6,000 tons per annum, etc., the loss involved would come only to about Rs. 11 lakhs if the Government undertook the supply ; and that the Company should therefore be prevailed upon to exercise the option reserved to it under the agreement and make its own arrangements for the extraction of timber and fuel. At the sixth meeting of the Economic Development Board held on the 14th August, 1922, the question of supply of soft woods, etc., to the factory was discussed and the Board passed a resolution recommending that every possible facility be given to the factory for starting match manufacture ; and that such modifications in the terms of the concession to the Company be made as would, while obviating a heavy loss to Government, *not* prejudice the Company's interests. They suggested that the Company be permitted to extract the necessary timber on paying Government a seigniorage which might be very low, almost nominal at start, but which might be increased according to a graduated scale. Government also consulted their law officers as to whether it was possible to withdraw altogether from the undertaking. The legal opinion was to the effect that the Courts might hold that the contract subsisted : that in any view of the case equitable considerations must prevail in favour of the Company, which had already invested large sums on buildings and on the import of machinery, etc., and that the matter required an amicable settlement for avoiding loss to either party. As a result of the negotiations undertaken, the Company has now executed a supplemental agreement undertaking the extraction of soft woods and fuel from the Yerur and Shendurni forest coupes under departmental supervision for twelve years from the date the factory commences work and the payment to the Government of 25 per cent. of the existing seigniorage rates for soft woods and the fuel for the first four years, 50 per cent. thereof for the next four years and 75 per cent. thereof for the last period of four years. It will thus be seen that under the revised agreement the Government have been relieved of the obligation to supply to the Company soft woods and fuel at the Company's premises, and considerable loss which

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I will explain. There are three Income Tax Inspectors. They are given a monthly conveyance allowance of Rs. 30 each which amounts to Rs. 1,080. But the sum of Rs. 900 under travelling allowance is for the Income Tax Auditor who has to travel about from one part of the State to the other. Income Tax Inspectors have also to go beyond their jurisdiction and then they are entitled to ordinary travelling allowance. The sum of Rs. 200 is for the establishment who might accompany the Income Tax Auditor for taking records, books, etc. I think I have made the point clear.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know from Mr. Robinson the number of days in a month the Inspectors will be out in camp and the number of days they will be in the town?

MR. S. C. H ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Their work is all in the town. But they may be sent out of town; *e. g.*, the Trivandrum Inspector may be asked to go to Agastisvaram on special duty. The allowance is intended to meet such cases.

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): In the light of that explanation, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 41.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to move the following:

41. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,700 for taxes on income by Rs. 100.

Sir, I hope it will be recognised that it is at the instance mostly of the representatives of the people that this new tax was imposed; and it will also be recognised that when the Income Tax Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council the principle was unanimously accepted by the non-official representatives. But it was then little thought that the Income Tax Regulation would be so arbitrarily exercised by the officers responsible for its working. I may say at the outset that, when accounts kept in the regular course of business are brought before the Collectors or the Commissioner, they are disposed of on the very simple ground that they are not worthy of being relied on. The accounts are said to be unreliable, not worthy of credit, and in most cases I think they proceed arbitrarily. They base their assessment arbitrarily on what they call their confidential enquiry. I will be failing in my duty if I do not at this stage bear testimony to the fact that, in respect of cases which have been taken before the Income Tax Commissioner, Mr. Robinson, no complaint of arbitrary action can be made. (*Hear, hear.*) As a matter of fact I may also say that of all the officers who are working that regulation the only officer who may perhaps have read and

understood the rules and regulations is Mr. Robinson. All the Dewan Peishkars and Tahsildars who exercise the powers of the Collector and the Commissioner respectively seem to be perfectly ignorant of the law; at least the results lead us to hold that view. Complaints after complaints have been made to me and to my friends on this side of the House that they proceed very arbitrarily in fixing the assessment. It is to draw the attention of the Government and this House to this aspect of the matter that I make this motion for reduction.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am very glad to support Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion. The Income Tax Regulation has been the means of securing a decent and equitable revenue for the Government. I think that it was I myself who first advocated this tax in the Popular Assembly and at one time I thought that I may feel some kind of satisfaction for that although it came after a very long time. But, Sir, to-day I remember the fact with considerable grief because the non-officials in the Assembly and the Council have had a share in enacting a measure of this description, the working of which has become very drastic indeed. Complaints are many that the income tax officers, and especially officers of the subordinate ranks, have not cared to understand the regulation and do not care to work the regulation equitably so that it may not affect the prosperity of the country and the wealth of its inhabitants. I have appeared in my professional capacity before the Land Revenue Commissioner and I am particularly happy to find that Mr. Robinson brought a judicial mind to bear on the disposal of such cases. I have observed, however, on several occasions the Income Tax Commissioner labouring under a serious disadvantage, when qualified competent vakils who are very familiar with the facts of the case appear before him on behalf of assessees. The Income Tax Commissioner does not get a presentation of the point of view of Government from anybody, so that he has to be a judge and a party at the same time. As far as I know, the decisions are not very much prejudiced; but I think that some means could and should be found by which the rights of the Government might be properly represented before the Income Tax Commissioner when he deals with important questions. Sir, the working of the Income Tax Regulation is giving very great offence to the people besides inflicting great loss upon them. Some time ago when we were engaged on a Select Committee, a number of Punjar people, very respectable men, came up there and told my friend Mr. Narayana Pillai about the rigorous action of the income tax authorities. The Tahsildars are calculating the income in such a manner as if the regulation is allowed to work in their own way. They proceed arbitrarily to refuse to accept account books for the reason that there is a blot of ink on a page or there is a difference of two cash in the totals. I have found that the Tahsildars believe their subordinates implicitly and give what decision they think fit. It is this aspect especially which is worthy of the consideration of this Council. Unless the Income Tax Regulation is properly worked, the people will continue to suffer and what has been considered to be an equitable tax will come to be regarded as a very rigorous impost.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I also beg to submit a word or two in connection with the IncomeTax Regulation and the realisation of tax under it. As has been pointed out by my friends on this side of the House, there are loud complaints as to the method of its working, so far as the Tahsildars are concerned. I am very glad to observe that, so far as the district officer at Kottayam is concerned, there is a healthy improvement, most probably owing to the wholesome check exercised by the present Commissioner, Mr. Robinson. Yet there is still much scope for further improvement with regard to the Tahsildars in the way in which they detain merchants' accounts and so forth. I think Mr. Robinson will improve the matter still further and see to the satisfactory working of the regulation so that the people may not be unnecessarily molested. With these observations, I support the resolution.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In view of the pointed reference made by my friend Mr. Velu Pillai, I think a word is due from me with respect to the operation of the Income Tax Regulation. I am glad to hear the compliment that has been paid to the Land Revenue Commissioner. It remains to be seen whether I am myself prepared to endorse the statement and join in the chorus of compliment. For a test case, I have presented before him a case with regard to the Punjar people who, according to my view and my reading of the law on the subject, are not liable to be taxed.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I do not think it can be discussed here, because it is *sub-judice*.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Robinson points out that it is not proper to discuss that particular matter in the House now.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have not disposed of the case. It is under my consideration.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am not going to speak anything with regard to that question. I referred to that case simply as an illustration. I would even suspend my decision as to whether Mr. Robinson deserves praise or otherwise till I hear the result of that case. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I do not think you could refer to a particular case and discuss it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am not going to discuss—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): He cannot make any reference to or express any opinion with respect to the merits of that case.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I only said I am going to suspend my opinion about Mr. Robinson. Of course it is very necessary that when dealing with the operation of the Income Tax

Regulation I should refer to particular cases. It involves the construction of the regulation and its application.

PRESIDENT: You can only refer to general principles and not argue any particular case.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): You do not allow me to refer to the general question since I referred to Punjar. In regard to Mr. Robinson's fairness—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): How many times has the member appeared before me?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I referred to the judicial temperament of Mr. Robinson and did not say anything with regard to particular cases. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): One fundamental difference that subsists between the Income Tax Regulation here and that in British India is in regard to agricultural income. Under the up-to-date British Indian regulation, lands exempted from assessment only are assessable to income tax. But in Travancore we appear to have borrowed the old Income Tax Regulation of British India, and have made an exemption in favour of all manner of agricultural incomes irrespective of whether the land from which the income is obtained is assessed to land revenue or not.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. Narayana Pillai is again raising the Punjar question. The matter is one of interpreting the regulation.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissione*): Was Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai on the Council when the Income Tax Regulation was passed?

PRESIDENT: It does not prevent him from offering remarks now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Unfortunately I was not a member.

It may be that the Government may be justified in collecting income tax from such lands as are now exempt, but the regulation has necessarily to be amended. As it exists, complaints arise not only from Punjar ryots but also all manner of kindred holders who are exempt in respect of their holdings. That aspect of the question I would press upon the Income Tax Commissioner in the matter of interpreting it. If, as my friend Mr. Subba Aiyar seems to think, the law is defective, amend the law before you proceed to tax. The question is whether the interpretation is correct or not.

PRESIDENT: I doubt whether that is a point which should be argued here. If the amendment of the regulation is desirable and if it is held that the present regulation causes hardship to the people, that

[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

may be urged and we might do what is deemed fit. But what interpretation should be put upon provision of the law can hardly be discussed here.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I ask him whether under the existing law it is not open to a party to ask the Commissioner to make a reference to the High Court in cases where there is difference of opinion as to the interpretation of a provision of the law? Then a satisfactory solution can be obtained.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I think Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is not in order; he can only ask a question.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): I ask whether it is not open to move the High Court and get an authoritative ruling in regard to the interpretation of the provisions of the regulation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Unfortunately there is no provision in the Income Tax Regulation for the aggrieved parties to move the High Court. They can only ask the Income Tax Commissioner to do so and it is entirely left to his sweet will and pleasure whether he makes a reference to the High Court or not. I see the British act has been so revised as to enable the party aggrieved to move the High Court himself. That change is also necessary. With respect to the question of interpretation, I may point out that in view of the existence of an ambiguous provision of law and in view of the fact that this is a fiscal law, the interpretation should be in favour of the subject. I wish to impress that aspect of the matter also upon the consideration of this House. The point raised by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar is another matter which has to be taken into consideration in the matter of the working of the regulation. I would urge Mr. Subba Aiyar to amend the regulation in the light of the amendment which this particular measure has received in British India. With these few words, I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House to one side of the administration of the Income Tax Regulation. I believe it is section 42 that declares that all communications made to the income tax officers are to be regarded as strictly confidential. Though the provision in the British Indian act goes to the length of saying that, notwithstanding anything that may be said in the Evidence Act, all these ought to be regarded as not only strictly confidential but also be inadmissible in evidence nevertheless there are instances in which the Tahsildar is granting copies of these confidential communications.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If Mr. Krishna Aiyar will bring to my notice any such instances, I shall take the necessary action.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall bring the instances privately to his notice.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I have sent up an identical motion and the object of that motion is to point out certain defects in the working of the Income Tax Regulation. One of the defects pointed out by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai is that the account books of merchants are not properly checked by the Income Tax Collectors. Sometimes the books are not demanded and they fix the assessment without seeing the books and knowing the income of the particular individual. I know one instance where the account book which was relied upon by a court of justice was rejected as false by the Income Tax Commissioner and the individual assessed to a larger sum.

Another difficulty which I have to point out is that these Inspectors who are appointed in two or three towns have not got sufficient work. So, in their zeal for increasing the revenue of Government, they are trying to fish out various persons and to show inflation of income. As an instance of that I know that a tailor was assessed with income tax. And when there was an appeal against that decision it was found that he was not worth enough to be charged with professional tax to the municipality. Such persons are put to great difficulty because in order to appeal against the decision they will have to spend money and will not get anything by way of damages from Government for their being put to trouble. As Mr P. K Narayana Pillai points out there are very great difficulties in interpreting the Income tax Regulation and the Collectors interpret them as they like. And very many persons who are not in a position to appeal to the Income Tax Commissioner will have to pay income tax. If there is a provision that in cases in regard to the interpretation of the regulation the aggrieved party may refer the matter to the civil court, this difficulty can be avoided.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I agree with the previous speakers in regard to the manner in which Mr. Robinson does his income tax work. Also his willingness to meet us and to listen to our views. I am sorry however. I cannot compliment the staff under him. Their ignorance of the rules is colossal and gives people a lot of trouble. I think at this time last year I referred to the question of Income Tax Inspectors and pointed out that men with some knowledge of accounts and some education should be appointed to these posts. I am afraid, however, nothing has been done, and I hope that the Government will now listen to the suggestions of the non-official members and would appoint men with a certain amount of knowledge in these matters. I wish also to ask the Government if they will bring the Regulation into line with the acts in British India and in England. I would also like to ask if the Government will be prepared to allow assessees if, necessary to appeal to the High Court. At present, Mr. Robinson is the last appellate authority and I think it is only reasonable that, if we are

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

not satisfied with Mr. Robinson's decision, we should have the power to appeal to the High Court.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is the High Court infallible?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): We can argue our case in the High Court.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): You can argue before me as well.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): You are an interested party. The other day your subordinate said that he was in the service of the Travancore Government and was out to get as much revenue as possible.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON: Have I said that?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): No; the men working under you have; and I would ask the Government again if they would bring the regulation into line with that of British India and the Act in England.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I was going to lay the flattering unction to my soul when I heard the fine compliments paid by Messrs. T. K. Velu Pillai and G. Paramesvaran Pillai to Mr. Robinson. But Mr. Mackie's impeachment of the Income Tax Department has burst the bubble. Mr. Mackie is the head of a very big firm and his pay, I believe, is as much as, if not more than, that of the Dewan of Travancore. (*Laughter.*) If such hard and unquestionable treatment as would appear to have been shown could be meted out to a firm where nearly all the higher officers are Europeans, what will be the treatment to other people and Indian firms? If this can be done to a green tree, how much more would it be to a dry tree? These are just a few observations I have to make in connection with the Income Tax Collector.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I would point out another aspect in which the regulation is working hardship. It taxes alike all the people having the same income without making any allowance for taxable limit; persons having a large family or no family at all; a bachelor that is to say, and a father having more than one child are taxed alike. I am sure there are countries where income tax is being assessed quite differently from what it is here and where they make an allowance to those who possess a large family.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Does he propose that a man possessing two wives should be taxed less than a man having one wife?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Certainly. The principle underlying the assessment is the same. The expenditure of the man ought to be taken into consideration in taxing him. There is no justification for a bachelor having the same income being taxed as a father having half a dozen children or a husband having more than one wife,

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Income tax is a tax on luxuries. Is it not a luxury to have more than one wife?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Whatever that be, Sir, I may tell Mr. Robinson that even in England that principle is accepted.

Then another aspect of the matter is that the data on which the assessment is being made are not fixed; that is to say, the accounts produced by the firms and business men are being discredited; and so there remain no data for the Collector to assess incomes. I have seen a statement made by a Collector to the effect that a man's income is roughly so much. I wonder how he comes to such a broad guess without any data before him.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish Mr. Raman Pillai will tell the House whether according to the present law the amount spent by a man for his food and clothing is exempt from taxation.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not think it necessary to take the time of the Council in answering that question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I should like to have an answer from Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai if he can give it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to be excused. (*Laughter.*)

There is another thing. The appeals from the Collectors are heard by the Division Assistants as they are at present constituted. There is verylittle difference in mentality between the Tahsildar who happens to be the Collector and these officers. If that practice can be improved I think there will be a distinct advantage. I also agree with the previous speakers in thinking that some provision may be made to render it possible at the instance of the aggrieved party to make a reference to civil courts in some cases.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissione*): I am in full sympathy with the gentlemen who spoke about the hardships and sufferings caused to the people by the working of the Income Tax Regulation. But I have to point out that this is a new regulation and it will take some little time for all the officers to get into the way of working the rules and learning all about them. Even some of the leading members of the bar who appeared before me said that this was a new regulation and they were only studying it—we all have to study it. Most of the Dewan Peishkars and the Tahsildars who work the rules have been magistrates for many years. It is only human to commit mistakes. Just as in criminal and other cases they commit mistakes, so in the working of the Income Tax Regulation also they may commit mistakes. As the officers get into the way of working it, no doubt, the complaints will also become less and less. It is under contemplation to revise our regulation and bring it into conformity with the new Act of 1922 in British India.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): What about the appointment of auditors and inspectors?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): All these points will have to be considered by the framers of the law. The other point referred to by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai about the Sirkar being represented will also receive due consideration. In improving the regulation we can not act hastily. Every aspect of the case will be taken into consideration. I may point out that section 50 provides for a reference being made to the High Court. I am sorry to hear of complaints about the accounts being not properly examined and people being arbitrarily assessed. I hope such instances will become less and less year after year. Mr. Mackie complains that the Income Tax Inspectors are not sufficiently competent men to inspect accounts. Now the Income Tax Inspectors are *not* authorised to inspect accounts. That is not their duty. We have a highly paid officer *i. e.*, the auditor, for that work. He is a Bachelor of Commerce. He has the right to examine the accounts of the firms whenever the Tahsildar or the Dewan Peishkar wants him; and the Inspectors, as I said, are not supposed to do the work of inspecting accounts. Their duty is to gather information regarding incomes.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether in the offices of the Dewan Peishkars and the Division Assistants who exercise powers under the regulation, there are clerks or auditors who are qualified for auditing accounts or to go through the accounts carefully?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): They have no Income Tax Auditors—I think that question was answered in reply to an interpellation. The actual work of assessment is done by the Collector or should be done by the Collector himself. I think I have answered all the points raised in the course of the discussion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I have got only one word by way of reply. The Law Member promised last year this time that the Income Tax Regulation would be brought up to date on the lines of the British Indian act. I have not heard from him at what stage, if any, the new Income Tax Bill is, whether he has drafted it or whether he has begun to revise it on the lines of the British Indian act. If he has not done so, I would only request him to expedite the matter. In amending the regulation, two points will have to be particularly noted, as suggested by Mr. Raman Pillai and Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai suggested that a reference to the High Court should be made obligatory, and not discretionary with the Income Tax Commissioner. As for that matter, when the present regulation was passed at the last Council, I moved an amendment to that effect before

the British Indian act was amended in regard to that particular provision. But the Government opposed it and it was lost. There was also another suggestion made at that time, *viz.*, that the tax should be levied not on the amount above the taxable minimum according to the present regulation, but only upon the *excess* over the taxable minimum. If the tax is to be levied on incomes above Rs. 2,000, Rs. 2,000 being the minimum, that minimum of Rs. 2,000 should be allowed exemption from tax, even in the case of persons having an income more than Rs. 2,000. This taxable minimum should apply in the case of all persons and the tax should be levied only on the excess over Rs. 2,000, the rates being correspondingly higher. That is the system that is obtaining in the United Kingdom. That suggestion was also made then.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): May I know whether, in order to meet the deficit in the revenue which would accrue from such a procedure, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai would suggest a higher rate of tax being levied?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Higher rate upon the excess. The rate of assessment should be increased with respect to persons getting larger and larger incomes, and that is exactly what is done in the United Kingdom. If that be done, Mr. Raman Pillai's difficulty may also be cleared. I would therefore request the Law Member to bear these two points particularly in mind when revising the regulation. I would also add that, as a large number of cases is being disposed of in the Division Assistants' offices and the Division Peishkars' offices, it is very essential that somebody who is able to look through the accounts and who is qualified enough to understand accounts should be put in there instead of the Dewan Peishkar being asked to avail himself of the services of his bench clerk and copyists for doing the duty. They are quite unable to adequately discharge this function. It is absolutely essential that for the safety of the people there should be qualified hands in the offices of the Dewan Peishkars and the Division Assistants for this purpose.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In regard to having capable officers in each of the Collectors' offices to go through the accounts, we would have to employ Income Tax Auditors in each of these offices. That means we shall have to find more funds.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As a matter of personal explanation, I may point out that there are now certain clerks doing purely income tax work in the Division Assistants' offices. If we replace them with persons who have passed examinations in book-keeping, accounts and commercial correspondence, they may be sufficiently qualified to understand a balance sheet. Such persons would not demand very high pay.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I doubt whether it would be possible to appoint an auditor in each of these offices. It would mean that we shall have to put in

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extra men. It is only a question of additional funds and I do not know whether this Council will sanction extra funds for the purpose. It is no doubt a very good proposition but we have to cut our coat according to our cloth.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the Commissioner could not have this work done by the Income Tax Inspectors provided competent men are appointed.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is not their duty. Their duty is to gather information in respect of a man's income.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My point is whether, in case qualified men are appointed to the post of Income Tax Inspectors, they cannot also do the work of auditing in the office of the Collectors.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): You will have to appoint men on higher pay. I do not think that the present Inspectors possess the requisite knowledge. Two of them are graduates.

PRESIDENT: The Inspectors may not have time.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): That is also a question to be considered. It certainly means more money.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I withdraw the motion.

Motion 42.

The following motion was not made:

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

42. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,700 for Taxes on Income by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·17 lakh be granted for Demand II, Taxes on Income.

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·17 lakhs under Demand III—Excise Department.

Motion 43.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

43. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,955 for inspection under III A—salt factories.

There was a good deal of discussion during the last budget debate about the extraordinary expenditure under establishment charges in the

various branches under the Excise Commissioner and it was fairly conceded that a considerable reduction is possible in the expenditure under this item. During the course of the discussion, Mr. Krishna Aiyangar observed:

"I maintain that there is scope for reduction in the strength of the controlling staff".

I particularly emphasise this because he, besides being the Deputy President, has been a prominent member of the Salaries Committee, and as such, had ample opportunities of seeing the inner working of the various departments, which the Committee tried to put on some common platform. We find that, in the budget estimates for 1099, there are 7 Inspectors provided for, besides one Sub-Inspector. Mr. Van Ross told us last year that these Inspectors are required for looking after *alloms*, five of them at Tamaracolam, one at the Rajakkamangalam *allom* and one at the Colachel *allom*. We have not been able to know what these Inspectors were doing last year, and I have again to repeat the complaint that, unless the departmental heads take the trouble of supplying us with their administration reports, it will not be possible for us to know what they are doing with the money that has been granted.

PRESIDENT: The year is not yet over, Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): They could have given us the administration reports for 1097. Except the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, no heads of departments would show us their reports, probably as there is nothing for their taking credit or there may be something discreditable in the administration. Whatever that be, they make it a secret. Anyhow, we find in 1097 in all the 8 *alloms* in Tamaracolam there was a decrease in the production of salt by 1,26,510 maunds, while the production of salt in the *allom* at Rajakkamangalam was about 11,000 maunds and in that at Colachel 40 maunds. I do not know if Mr. Van Ross will contend that he wants an Inspector to look after an *allom* which produces 40 maunds and another to look after one which produces 11,000 maunds; nor would there be any justification for having so many as five Inspectors at Tamaracolam when the production of salt is steadily decreasing. It is also to be noticed that the *allom* at Rajakkamangalam is only 56 acres and odd in extent, while that at Colachel is only 40 acres and odd, so that the total area under salt manufacture which has to be supervised by one Assistant Commissioner, eight Inspectors and one Sub-Inspector is only 419 acres. That works out to less than 50 acres per Inspector. In spite of the vigilant and effective supervision for which these persons are insisted upon, we find that the average yield per acre also fell from 1,376 maunds in 1096 to 1,011 maunds in 1097. On the other hand, we find the expenditure is steadily going up. The expenditure under establishment in 1097 was Rs. 8,220. The revised estimate for 1098 shows that Rs. 10,200 was required for establishment, while this year the amount budgeted is Rs. 12,868 *plus* Rs. 848 for one Sub-Inspector. The expenditure is thus about Rs. 5,000 more than what it was in 1097 in spite of the decrease in revenue. This increase in expenditure is

[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

due to the increase of the staff by four Inspectors and one Sub-Inspector. I submit, Sir, that this additional staff is not justified under any circumstance whatsoever.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I have not understood Mr. Raman Pillai. He said that there has been an increase in the staff of the Inspectors.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): It is the increase in the number of Inspectors from four to seven.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There has been no increase.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I find, in the budget estimate for 1099, that there are seven Inspectors, three on Rs. 100 to 125 and four on Rs. 60 to 90, besides a Sub-Inspector.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There was in the last year also the same number of Inspectors.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): A new *allom* has been opened at Variyoor.

PRESIDENT: The new Sub-Inspector is for the Variyoor *allom*.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The staff of Inspectors has been increased from four to eight.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): This year also there are only seven.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, it is for the Commissioner to explain the increase of Rs. 3,600 in the current year's expenditure. I find there has been no increase in number.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, is it not a fact —

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is he in order, Sir?

PRESIDENT: I am pointing out to him that he is not in order.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The question of the number of Excise Inspectors in the Salt Factories Division was discussed at great length at the last budget debate in this Council and the House was good enough to pass the demand. Of the seven Inspectors, two Inspectors are at Colachel and Rajakkamangalam and these officers cannot be done away with as they are isolated factories, and not connected with any other factory.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Van Ross be pleased to tell us the distance between the two *alloms*?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): About five miles. The Colachel Inspector is also doing the work of the Sea Customs

Inspector there. We cannot do away with these two Inspectors. Then there remains —

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The distance is eight or nine miles.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross states that the Salt Factories Inspector at Colachel is in charge of the sea customs work also.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, may I know the income from the customs office at Colachel?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not got the figure ready.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross, can you not give an approximate estimate of the annual receipts from that port?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. It is given in the Administration Report.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Royalty on the monazite imported from Colachel is also paid there.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The work of the Colachel Inspector does not consist merely in dealing with imports. Much work has to be done as there are frequent exports.

Then there remain only five Inspectors.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the nature of the imports?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The imports from Ceylon are iron ware, arecanut, etc.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the kind of dutiable imports?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The imports are generally more or less, iron materials, arecanut, and other things.

Then there are five Inspectors for Tamaracolam. Since last Karkatakam, two more factories have been opened up and the works are nearly complete. They are expected to begin manufacture in the Purattasi *pani* of 1099. Thus the number of factories has increased from eight to ten and there are only five Inspectors. Owing to the doubling of the salt duty a wider gap now exists between the *kudivila* and the sale price and consequently the inducement for theft of salt has increased two-fold. Redoubled and unremitting vigilance has to be maintained to prevent loss of revenue to Government by theft. Salt heaps have to be daily inspected and night guard duty has to be carefully checked, and all available hands are consequently very necessary. I am therefore unable to agree to any reduction in the number of Inspectors and would request the House to kindly pass the demand.

I find that the receipt from customs at the Colachel port was Rs. 4,025 in 1095. Later figures are not available.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I wish to accord my support to Mr. Raman Pillai's motion. There has been an agitation for a very long time in this country that Travancore should be made self-supporting in the production of salt. It cannot be quite feasible in the near future to do so. The Government, however, opened enough salt depôts which would show the anxiety of Government to meet the popular point of view and they have adopted the suggestion of those who agitated the question; and they are also prepared to render timely help to people who are prepared to put their money in the business of salt manufacture. The Variyoor *allom* which had been once abandoned was taken up. Whatever may be the honesty of Government in the encouragement of salt manufacture in Travancore, I am not quite satisfied that these half-hearted measures will redound to the benefit of the revenue. The Variyoor *allom* was being worked for a considerable time before it was abandoned and as it had been abandoned, the ordinary presumption is that no proper use could be made of it, and that the salt manufactured there was either too small in quantity or that it would not sell. As a matter of fact, Variyoor salt was not found to be quite so good as the Rajakkamangalam or Tamaracolam salt. To me the abolition and subsequent reopening of the Variyoor *allom* has come as a surprise. The Government, Sir, have not been very careful in finding the possibilities of these abandoned *alloms* before they expend money again on them. The knowledge of the process of salt manufacture possessed by the Salt Inspectors and some of the Assistant Commissioners is not very high. It is also unfortunate that although one officer—probably there are others—was deputed to other places where he picked up some knowledge regarding salt manufacture, that officer's services have not been utilised in the salt *alloms*. On the other hand, a square man is put into a round hole. I fail to see the wisdom of getting people trained at Government cost for a particular work and then posting them anywhere else. The Excise Department is bound to utilise a trained man's services to the best advantage. I do not think that one who has come back after training in salt manufacture can be sent to do other work with profit.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I want a ruling as to whether the member is in order in dilating on the general policy with regard to salt manufacture, when the motion relates to the abolition of Inspectors.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I think, Sir, I am perfectly relevant. I am dilating on that point because when Mr. Raman Pillai—

PRESIDENT: I have not ruled you out of order. So you may go on, Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): So, I need not explain it any further. I would, however, refer to the possibility of manufacturing salt from the Kayankulam lake. I understand that

Kayankulam lake salt will be sufficient in quantity and will not be deleterious in any measure. Whether Government have got the question of salt manufacture examined by really competent men from outside who know the economic and mechanical business of salt manufacture, is not known. All that I wish to say is that it may be taken up as a specific question by really competent men and a settled salt policy must be started. Sir, regarding the appointment of Inspectors in the salt factories, I am not quite sure, if in a small *allom* an Inspector should get a high pay. These Inspectors in the *alloms* have got certain other sources of income. If there is salt in the godowns—

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I wish to know from Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai whether it is a recognised income. If so, what is the income that he is referring to?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am saying that they are getting an illicit and illegal income.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If any such thing is brought to my notice, it will be put a stop to and the delinquent punished.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am glad that my friend Mr. Van Ross has given the assurance and I hope that in case the culprits are found, they will be brought to book.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time limit?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It may be left to the officer on the spot to find out all causes of such illicit action. The Commissioner is at Trivandrum and the Assistant Commissioners are the men on the spot. That is why cases rarely come to the Commissioner's notice. As a matter of fact, I know from very reliable persons in this House—I do not wish to disclose names—that these Salt Inspectors are putting the contractors to very great difficulty unless they pay two chackrams or so for every sack. If the levy is not paid, the Inspector would be giving out lame excuses that he is suffering from tooth-ache or other indisposition and therefore unable to look after the matter. All these things do exist. Of course, I do not want to press the point any further in the face of the very earnest assurance the Excise Commissioner has given. I do not want to say anything further on the point except that these *alloms* need looking into and should possess the services of an expert. If we have not got experts in the service now, somebody has to be sent out for training so that he may come back to Travancore with a really efficient knowledge which will be of use in the manufacture of salt. I am also constrained to request that, if there is an officer trained to do the work, that officer should be made to do that work and none else.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, it is a matter for great pleasure to see a quondam Excise Inspector speak so vehemently about excise matters, particularly salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I was not in charge of any salt factories.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I said excise officer and not salt officer. There is one Assistant Commissioner besides seven Inspectors and one Sub-Inspector in charge of the salt factories. I should be the last person to support this motion if the money asked for is being put to proper use. It took the breath out of me when I heard that only 40 maunds of salt are being manufactured in the Colachel *allom*, and that an Inspector is in charge of the factory. Mr. Van Ross is not able to tell us, when questioned from the Chair, what the nature of the exports and imports is.

PRESIDENT: No such question was put from the Chair. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg your pardon, Sir. Mr. Velu Pillai said something about the Rajakkamangalam *allom*. If it is to be kept in working order something must be done for preventing the percolation of fresh water from the Pazhayar. If it is going to be abandoned, the sooner it is done the better. With regard to the Variyoor *allom*, the experiment was made some time ago and it was found to be an utterly useless *allom*. Now it has been resuscitated. I do not know how the conditions have now changed. It was supposed to be perfectly useless and it was closed. Now it has been opened again. With regard to the salt manufactured in many of these *alloms*, there is not the smallest doubt that the quantity as well as the quality is going down. The other day some salt was brought to my house for domestic purposes and I found it to be dirty salt, filth more than salt.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I wish to know whether the salt he spoke about was purchased from the depôt or from the retail vendor.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It was purchased from the bazaar.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Then I am not responsible.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No attempt whatever seems to have been made with regard to the improvement of salt manufacture. I see from the answers given to my interpellation that nothing whatever is being done to analyse salt whether in the factories or anywhere else. Salt, Sir, is a dangerous thing to consume, if not properly manufactured.

PRESIDENT: That is not strictly correct. I remember the answer to the interpellation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Only two experiments have been made during these several years and the laboratory in Tamaracolam is a thing of the past.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Have all these experiments been conducted by Inspectors who are chemistry graduates?

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Probably one experiment was conducted by Mr. Nilakandan, a chemistry graduate, who is the only officer who knows anything about salt. With many apologies to the Excise Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioners, I may say that hardly anybody in the salt factories has a real knowledge of salt manufacture.

PRESIDENT: That statement is really incorrect. I remember the answer to the interpellation that the experiment was made by the Chemical Examiner.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): By Mr. Nilakandan, probably. (*Laughter.*) No attempt has been made to improve the quality of salt. The demand is increasing, but no serious attempt is being made to increase the quantity either. Mr. Velu Pillai spoke about the Kayankulam lake and the tremendous possibility of manufacturing salt in central Travancore. Once upon a time there were factories there and the salt manufactured there may not have been found to be the best quality. With improved methods of salt manufacture, it is quite possible to manufacture good salt there. Even if the quality is not good, it could be used for fish-curing and industrial purposes.

PRESIDENT: I must tell the Council that we ought not to discuss the salt policy in connection with this particular motion.

Mr. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I also have some personal knowledge of the Variyoor *allom;* and I feel bound to say a word or two in this connection. Since the time when the dry lands were converted into wet lands, the licensees of the Variyoor *allom* neglected the manufacture of salt in it. So the quantity of salt manufactured went far below what was expected. There was no co-operation among the licensees, but now it has come into the hands of a single individual. I am myself so bold as to say that he has done a good deal by way of improvement to the *allom.* I fully believe that the *allom* will sooner or later be a success. Then with regard to the reduction of Inspectors, I do not think that Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai is right in asking for a reduction at the present time.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know from Mr. Daniel whether any one of his relations is employed as an Inspector or Sub Inspector in these *alloms*.

PRESIDENT: I must object to that question.

Mr. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): As a matter of fact, some of my relations owned more than 50 per cent. of the pans in the Variyoor *allom*. They were deprived of the benefit of the Variyoor *allom* by the present licensee of the *allom.*

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not mean the Variyoor *allom.*

PRESIDENT: I do not think it arises.

Mr. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): None of my relations is an Inspector or a Sub-Inspector in any of the salt *alloms* where a reduction is sought.

[MR. A. J. Van Ross.]

PRESIDENT: You need not answer that.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Considering the high price of salt and the low cost of its production, I think, in the interest of the revenue to the Government, it will be quite inadvisable to make any reduction in the staff of Inspectors.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Will Mr. Daniel tell us the possible maximum quantity that may be manufactured in the Variyoor *allom*?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): My sincere hope is that it will be successful. The State can get about Rs. 20,000 this year; and there is the prospect of getting more hereafter.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, I beg to propose to reduce one Inspector in the Tamaracolam salt factories for the following reasons:

Now we have one Inspector for Puttallom, one for the Srimulagopalanathan *allom* and a third for the Srimulakrishnamani *allom* and the Srisankara *allom*. There is no necessity for a separate Inspector for Puttallom because the salt manufactured in that *allom* entirely belongs to Government and there is no sale on the licensee's account. But as there is licensee's sale in Srisankara *allom*, one Inspector can be in charge of both *alloms*. Now the Inspector in charge of Srisankara *allom* is also in charge of Srimulakrishnamani *allom*. While there is licensees' sale in both *alloms* the licensees are put to considerable difficulties when sales are effected in both factories. To avoid these, one Inspector may be placed in charge of Srimulagopalanathan and Srimulakrishnamani *alloms* as both *alloms* belong to one and the same individual. The licensee of these two *alloms* can serve under one master instead of two under the present arrangement. Under the above circumstances, I propose to reduce one Inspector and appoint only two for the above four *alloms* for the reasons stated above.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The only point that requires consideration is that the Colachel Inspector is in charge of the sea customs also and therefore could not be spared. My answer to that objection is that the charges under establishment in customs are themselves too high. It is about three and a half per cent. of the income, and therefore, I submit, that it must be possible for Mr. Van Ross to give relief on account of the extra work in customs, and after all it appears to be a very small matter. I have only to draw the attention of the House to the expert opinion which Mr. Karayalar has brought to bear on the House in the matter. Considering the small reduction that I propose, *viz.*, Rs. 300 a month, which is quite reasonable, I think it will be acceptable to the House.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In regard to what Mr. Karayalar said just now, I may state that it is with considerable inconvenience that the Srisankara *allom* and the Srimulakrishnamani *allom*

are being worked by one Inspector. Mr. Karayalar said that there are no sales in the Puttallom factory. There are sales there and it is a large factory yielding a lakh.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): All the salt there belongs to Government. They can only be transported. No sale is effected.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Even last year, salt was sold there.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): That will be against the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner himself. The salt there is Government salt and it can either be transported or stored as reserve. It is not for sale.

PRESIDENT: Government can sell the salt there.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Government do not sell there.

PRESIDENT: They can, if it is necessary.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Salt is for reserve and not for sale.

PRESIDENT: What is the object of keeping salt in reserve? Is it to keep down the price of salt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Will the member refer me to any Government order prohibiting the sale of salt there?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I think the Excise Commissioner has recommended that the salt should be reserved there against the contingengeny of the licensees raising the price.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether any sale is effected now in that particular place?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the member be pleased to say how many maunds were sold last year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): 70,000 maunds were sold the year before last. As regards last year, I have not got the figures ready.

As I said already, this is a time when special care has to be taken to prevent theft of salt. The Inspector has to see that the guards do their work properly and that no theft is taking place.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Van Ross be pleased to state how many cases of theft were found out last year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not got the figures ready. I will call for them and place them before the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will Mr. Van Ross be pleased to say whether the Excise Inspector is living near the *alloms*?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): How could he do so? You refused to give him quarters.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Before the quarters are provided, I wish to know whether the Inspector is on duty at night?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There are men posted there on guard duty and they have often to take shelter in sheds that are open on all sides.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The Excise Commissioner presumes that they are doing their duty?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): When they fail in their duty and when thefts take place, we punish the men responsible for that.

Regarding the criticism of Mr. Raman Pillai, as regards the fall in the revenue under Salt, the salt manufacture in Travancore depends upon the weather conditions. One year we have continuous dry weather and that year the outturn is very good. In 1097 we had untimely rains and that interfered considerably with the outturn.

As regards the Variyoor *allom*, it was owned by about 21 petty licensees and there were several reasons for its downfall in the past. One was that the irrigation of the surrounding places affected the salt-pans by percolation of fresh water and the private owners were not able to cope with the drainage work necessary there. Now the factory has been taken up by a private gentleman and he is doing all the work at his own cost and without any expenditure to the Government. In the course of about one and a half months he has manufactured about 2,000 maunds of salt from an area of about 3 acres.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether it was worked at Government cost or by a private individual.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was a Government monopoly factory where the work had to be done by Government. Now it is being done by a private individual at his own risk. Government have only to maintain a small establishment to safeguard the revenue. That factory will yield about 10,000 maunds of salt, in which case we expect about Rs. 25,000, from that little factory alone.

With regard to the point about the man trained in salt, or who may be called a salt expert, I am not prepared to grant that Mr. Nilakandan is an expert. He was deputed to inspect some factories in British India. That, I think, cannot be said to have given him expert knowledge.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has any Excise Commissioner recommended that there should be a salt expert in Travancore?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, so far as I know there has been no such recommendation. My predecessor has also said that no salt expert is needed. The manufacture of salt is very well known to the people at work in the factories and the officers are expected only to supervise that work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I will read a portion from the Administration Report for 1097:—

"Besides the worm pest, owing to the premature and intermittent rainfall, the year was not favourable to salt manufacture".

Is there any qualified agency in the department which can deal with this pest, find out its cause and remedy the evil?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The worm pest comes when there is not sufficient saline matter. If the salinity is increased, the worm will naturally disappear.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I want definite information as to whether a scientific man, preferably a chemistry graduate, will not be able to find out the cause and also the remedy for the same.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Probably he may be able to find out some chemical which might remove the worms. The usual process is to make the land sufficiently saline. The worms will then disappear. That is the natural remedy.

With regard to Mr. Nilakandan, he has some knowledge of salt industry. When I took charge, Mr. Nilakandan was at Piravam and Mr. Govinda Pillai was in charge of the salt factory. We cannot pin a man down to a particular place. He should be given some relief. He was in the factory for some time and I thought that in order to give him relief he should be transferred from the factory.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether Mr. Nilakandan was consulted when he was transferred.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not got the information because I did not transfer him. I thought he was transferred in the usual course of things.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My point is whether it would not be better for the department to have a qualified man in charge of the salt factories.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It would be very much better if one or two men are sent to British India to study salt manufacture; but it is not indispensable.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether salt is being analysed in British India from time to time.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware of that.

With regard to the Colachel *allom* it has fallen from its once flourishing condition. The *allom* has been spoiled by the percolation

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai]

of fresh water from the surrounding places. Since I took charge, good work is being done there to stop percolation. The Chief Engineer is bestowing special attention to the matter and by Purattasi the *allom* will be in good working order. Money is being spent to make proper drainage channels and in 1099 the outturn will be very good there. There has been some delay on the part of the P. W. D. But the works are now in progress and I expect that in a month's time the work will be complete.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Excise Commissioner agree to axe at least one of the Inspectors ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have given the matter very careful consideration. Probably next year we may require more men.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether it would not be desirable to experiment in the Kayankulam lake.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I must confess I have not made any enquiry in the matter but from old records I find that the salt from the Kayankulam lake is absolutely unfit for human consumption, being black and muddy. It is not even fit for fish curing.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether experiments cannot be made in new methods of manufacturing salt. I have seen myself that in British India they are trying new methods—the Bombay method, the Italian method and so on. I wish to know whether any such experiments could not be made here, so that in the near future Travancore may become self-contained.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I would ask the member if he would not wait till we bring the existing *allom*s into perfection before we take up the Kayankulam lake. We have plenty of work to do in the old factory itself.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion to a division, Mr. Raman Pillai ?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was then put to the vote and was lost, 13 voting *for* and 26 *against*.

Motion 44.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

44. To omit the allotment of Rs. 480 for one Sub-Inspector.

I submit that, in the light of the fact that it has not been possible to make a reduction in the number of Inspectors in charge of the salt factories, Mr. Van Ross will not object to this small reduction

Mr. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I oppose the motion on the ground that one Sub-Inspector is absolutely necessary for the Variyoor *allom*, because the Inspectors in the other salt factories will not be able to check the work at Variyoor.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): There is nothing in the budget to show that this Sub-Inspector is for Variyoor. I would request Mr. Karayalar to give me the source from which he got the information.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There is a footnote in the printed budget.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I oppose the motion.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): As I have already said, this is a factory which has been newly resuscitated and it is likely to yield something like Rs. 25,000 every year and it is impossible to manage the factory without having some superior officer to safeguard Government revenue. I am sorry I am unable to accept the cut.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have only to point out that it will be quite possible for the Commissioner to transfer one of these seven Inspectors to the Variyoor *allom* and make him look after that. I am sorry Mr. Karayalar himself who suggested that one Inspector might be removed from the Tamaracolam factory is now opposing the motion on the ground that one Sub-Inspector is absolutely necessary for the Variyoor *allom* which has not produced anything in 1097.

PRESIDENT: It was not in existence in 1097.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): But in the statistics volume given to us the name has been put in and it is said to be 22 acres and 42 cents in extent, producing nothing. Therefore even Mr. Karayalar would admit that by the transfer of a Sub-Inspector from Tamaracolam to Variyoor the problem could be very easily solved. I therefore press the motion.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In the discussion with regard to the Tamaracolam Salt Factory, it was distinctly said that five Inspectors are required at Tamaracolam and the House was kind enough to pass that.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it not possible to transfer one from Tamaracolam?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I said it is not possible because, for the ten factories at Tamaracolam, five Inspectors are absolutely necessary.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion to a division?

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 8 voting *for* and 26 *against*.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

Motion 45.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

45. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,344 for leave allowances.

Hitherto 'leave allowances' was not an item in the budget. At any rate, in the last budget it was not an item. Hitherto the leave allowances were paid from the savings or treated as inevitable charges. The Financial Secretary says that specific provision for leave allowances is necessary and that, though past experience shows that the reserve provision will not be required in most of the departments, he has set apart Rs. 2½ lakhs for the purpose.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I beg to point out that the Council has passed these leave allowances in the case of the Land Revenue Department yesterday.

PRESIDENT: That has already been passed. The member is objecting to the item here. This relates to Excise.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The principle is the same.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If the Financial Secretary or the Excise Commissioner wants any additional grant, he can come to the Council and apply for a supplementary grant afterwards. Last year there was a saving of about Rs. 2¼ lakhs under salaries, because the salaries of officers were calculated on the averages and not on the actuals. This year also I think the provision for salaries is in excess of the actual requirements. So there will be savings under salaries which could very well be utilised for meeting the leave allowances. On this ground I move that the allotment for leave allowances be omitted.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I second it.

PRESIDENT: These motions do not require seconding.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): This expenditure is always to be met from year to year. It is only this year, however, that a specific provision is made in the budget. I do not see any objection in this harmless provision. Men are likely to take leave and they should be paid.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will there not be any saving?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Usually the average is taken into account. This time the actuals have been calculated.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): There are possibilities of saving, this time also. If I am asked

to explain, I can give specific instances. As regards the English Professors of the Arts College, provision is made for three English Professors on Rs. 400—750. Now there are only two and the scale of their salary has been reduced to Rs. 300—700.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was after the budget was presented.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Anyhow, there will be a saving and that might be utilised for leave allowances.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say in this matter.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : (Standing).

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I wish to know from Mr. George—

PRESIDENT : You cannot ask him a question before he begins to speak. He is not in possession of the House now.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Prior to this budget we were not making any provision for leave allowances. The leave allowances have been budgeted now, not with the idea of avoiding coming to the Council. The budget must provide for necessary items.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Supposing there is any excess, is not the department entitled to utilise the same for some other item without coming to the Council ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Under the rules they can do so. But I have distinctly stated that Government have decided not to appropriate savings in future. The existence of the provision does not help or hinder anything. So I think there is no harm in passing it.

PRESIDENT : Do you still press your motion, Mr. Madhava Variar ?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Patanamtitta*) : No, Sir.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 46 to 48.

The following motions were not made :

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

46. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,270 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

47. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for purchase and repair of office furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

48. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 750 for office expenses by Rs. 500.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Motion 49.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

49. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,850 for Inspectors by Rs. 1,200.

This amount is meant for the pay of three Inspectors in salt business. The House will know that the salt business has considerably decreased. It has fallen from 6½ lakhs of maunds of salt in 1096 to 6,47,000 maunds in 1097.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I request the member to refer me to the statement that he has quoted?

MR. K. P RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am referring to the Administration Report and Statistics Vols. II and III. Now there is no other circumstance which necessitates so many Inspectors. Mr. Karayalar has been given the contract for the monopoly to sell and transport salt, and I believe he is selling salt to almost the whole of the population in middle Travancore.

PRESIDENT: Only in Alleppey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): All the taluks which come under the jurisdiction of the Alleppey Depôt.

PRESIDENT: No, no. There is no jurisdiction for the Alleppey Depôt.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Anyhow he can sell salt to all people who have been buying from Alleppey. That means that the whole of middle Travancore is supplied by him. That being so, I do not think these Inspectors are necessary.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I oppose the motion. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has not understood the real situation. Mr. Karayalar has got the contract only to transport salt and an Excise Inspector is highly necessary to supervise and conduct the sale.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether Mr. Karayalar has been given the contract for the transport of salt to Quilon.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know from Mr. Karayalar if he can sell his salt at Muvattupuzha or Chengannur.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): There is no restriction as regards that. I can pay the duty, transport it to any place I like and sell.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether Mr. Karayalar is not in a position to purchase any amount of salt from the Alleppey Depôt and sell it to retail merchants.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I can do it just like any other merchant.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether Mr. Karayalar can give an assurance as contractor here, while as a matter of fact he is here as the elected representative of Shencottah.

PRESIDENT: He places his knowledge at the disposal of the Council.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The depôt at Alleppey stocks Bombay and Tuticorin salt. Mr. Karayalar has the contract for the transport of Tuticorin salt to Alleppey and not of Bombay salt, while there is no local salt available. In both cases the sale is done in the depôt and if Mr. Karayalar has to take away salt from the depot, he would have to pay a very large sum. That would not be possible for any unless he invests a very large sum. So the sale is done in the depôt.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether, under the contract, he is to pay the duty only after the sale or before the sale?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Not, before the sale. And then it is issued from the depôt daily by the Inspector or other officer in charge. Government have got a lien on this salt till the duty is realised.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know what is the price of the salt given to Mr. Karayalar?

PRESIDENT: I do not think it arises.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): So an Inspector is wanted there for the storing and the sale of Bombay salt. Am I to understand that Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai is for the abolition of the Quilon Depôt also?

PRESIDENT: The motion relates only to the cutting down of Rs. 1,00.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 50.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I rise to move:

50. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,368 for two petty officers and 15 peons.

PRESIDENT: Fifteen, I think, is a mistake. There are only five peons.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I find in the budget that they are appointed for the whole of 1099. But I do not understand why they are so appointed. I understand that salt

[A. Hoogewerf,]

issued from the Trivandrum Port Salt Depôt is very bad. So the merchants at Trivandrum are going to the Tamaracolam Depôt to purchase salt from there and sell it at higher prices. If the salt issued from the Port Salt Depôt is very bad, the merchants cannot purchase the salt from that place. I do not understand why a temporary establishment should be maintained for selling bad salt from the Port Salt Depôt.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In the first place, I want to point out to the House that the salt stored in the Trivandrum Depôt is not bad since it is the same salt that the people from here purchase and bring from Tamaracolam.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Why then do they go to Tamaracolam to purchase and bring it here?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I will explain that. Unfortunately when dry salt is brought from the salt factories and is stored here, the salt becomes moist and heavy, and that weighs more.

PRESIDENT: Takes in more measure for measure?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes; but the dry salt will take less in measure. So that the merchants from Trivandrum preferred to bring dry salt from factories. I sent the Assistant Excise Commissioner to find out the difference in measure between the two kinds of salt and he found there was a considerable difference.

That would probably be an argument that the depôt was not necessary.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the condition of salt in the depôts in Quilon and Alleppey?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): There they have no other depôts. Here they can get it through the depôts.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Are the merchants selling at a higher rate?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They were selling at a higher rate when the Trivandrum depôt was clossed in Makaram 1095, during the time of my predecessor.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know from the member the facts relating to this decrease. Suppose 10,000 maunds of salt stored in are weighed out after one year or six months. Will the quantity be more or less?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say. Sometimes it weighs less, sometimes more. It may also be due to wastage. The depôt was closed in Makaram 1095.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the wastage in the depôt?

PRESIDENT: There is some wastage in handling. It has to be handled nevertheless.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Directly the depôt was closed, the effect was seen. The local traders raised the price because there was no check here. Immediately there were complaints and Mr. Adam Sait raised the question in the Legislative Council and on enquiry the grievance that the prices were high in Trivandrum was found to be true. The depôt was therefore reopened. So long as the depôt is here, it acts as a check upon the inflation of prices.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask whether the cost of transport of any quantity of salt by *pattamar* from Tamaracolam to Quilon is not less than the transport by land.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. Van Ross said that whether in Quilon or in Trivandrum people are dissatisfied with the salt. They come to Tamaracolam. My question is whether it is not cheaper to bring salt from Tamaracolam to Quilon by *pattamars*.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The charges for bringing salt from the factories to Quilon will come to five annas a maund.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know what would be the price now.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It comes to about four annas a maund to Trivandrum. I understand that it comes to about eight annas a bag for transporting salt from the factories to Trivandrum by cart.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Considering that the transport charge by cart is double that of transport by sea, would not the merchants prefer buying at the depôt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I said four annas a maund to Trivandrum by sea.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): But the fact remains that when salt is transported by land to Trivandrum, the price of salt is higher than when it is brought by sea.

PRESIDENT: There is no question of sea or land. It costs about four annas per maund.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): He said six annas a bag.

PRESIDENT: Eight annas per bag.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (Nominated): May I know why merchants still go to the depôts?

PRESIDENT: He has already explained why merchants go to the depôts in spite of the transport charges.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The depôt is maintained here solely in the interests of the consuming public. Once the depôt is closed, prices would go up immediately.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The question is not that. We want to know what justification there is for giving preferential treatment to some people in the capital at a cost of Rs. 1,368.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Not only the people of Trivandrum but those of the surrounding places also are benefited.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why should the general taxpayer pay for the preferential treatment of people here?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): We have the depôts at Quilon and Alleppey and salt can be got directly from the depôts by people elsewhere too.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether it is to prevent the merchants in Trivandrum selling salt at very high rates that the depôt is maintained.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Prevention of profiteering is the main object. The poor people in the coast regions also find it very useful for fish-curing purposes.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 51 to 53.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

51. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

52. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 34,500 for transport charges of salt by Rs. 9,500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

53. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous, including wastage of salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know how Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai can withdraw his motions without having moved them.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not move them. (*Laughter.*)

Motion 54.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move:

54. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous including wastage of salt.

An allotment of this kind has to be cut out in view of the fact that we have been purchasing machines year after year, and in view of the

fact that several machines are already in the Excise Commissioner's office without being used. It is for this purpose that I propose the omission.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The scales in my office are the Grainger's scales and cup scales. A few are kept in reserve. The scales that I want to buy are platform scales required at the gate of each factory and of each depôt and at the salt bankshalls in the Shencottah taluk. These are used every day and when they get worn out they become absolutely useless. Last year we supplied scales to Alleppey, Munambam and Shencottah. Four scales have been purchased this year for the Avadhanigal, Sri Sankara *Allom*, Variyoor *Allom* and Cape Comorin. We want scales at Quilon, the salt bankshalls at Elathur and Ayakudi and the Salt Factory. These scales are small scales and are used every day. Salt has a corroding effect on the balance and the knife edges and the scales become useless; so periodically, they have to be replaced.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): What is done with the old scales?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They are auctioned. I have provided for this amount as more scales are necessary.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motion was not made :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

55. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for purchase of weights, etc., by Rs. 500.

Motion 56.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion :

56. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,175 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

My object in making the motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that sufficient importance is not being attached by the Excise Department to the production of home salt. The quantity produced is also not proportionate to the expenditure incurred. I have also to point out that the man who has got some training for salt manufacture is not put in charge of that work. The explanation given by the Excise Commissioner, that the officer had been in the salt factory for some time and therefore he felt it his duty to relieve him, does not appear satisfactory. The officer himself was not consulted and he has not expressed any unwillingness to be in charge of the work and go on doing scientific investigations in regard to salt manufacture. We also find from the Administration Report—the latest one a year or two old—that adequate attention is not being paid to prevent water from percolating into salt pans. We are told that the decrease in production is due to the fact that fresh water is percolating

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

from the adjoining lake and the Public Works Department does not do the protective works, or that it did not complete the works for which money had been budgeted. For the decrease in the quantity we are also told that the weather is partly responsible and the curious portion of it is that on account of the fall due to the weather the Excise Commissioner wants an increase in the number of Inspectors.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have to point out that nothing of that sort was said by me.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am sorry. (*Laughter.*) They came close upon one another. Then another circumstance is the fact that the price of salt is growing fabulously high, especially in up-country parts—Muvattupuzha, Todpuzha and other places. The price has gone fabulously high, to about Rs. 12 for a sack of two maunds, and no serious attempt seems to have been made to put down the price of salt in those places. At all events, Sir, the provision of an establishment under bankshalls would be a trifle when compared to the blessing that it would bring to the poor people, none of whom could live without salt.

Then, another circumstance I want to point out is the loss that is likely to be incurred on account of the monopoly of the contract given to Mr. Karayalar. Of course I shall be told by Mr. Van Ross in the course of his reply whether there is any difference between the rates at which he has to sell and if so what is the difference between the rates prevalent prior to the monopoly and subsequent to it. Even if the rates are the same, which I believe is not the case, the Government are to lose about Rs. 2 lakhs which they used to get under the heading, 'recoveries on account of transport charges'.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I ask the member to refer me to his authority for saying that there is a loss of Rs. 2½ lakhs?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Statistics and the Adminstration Report for 1096.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Not only in Alleppey but in all the depôts together.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, surely. The total sum it was that I mentioned and proportionate loss will have to be incurred at Alleppey. There is no harm in helping an individual. But at the same time it should not work at a very great loss to Government in these days of financial stringency. And then no serious attempt is being made to keep down the cost, I mean the establishment charges, at the factories and the salt business which the department is undertaking. On the other hand, we find from the discussion that the expenditure on account of establishment and other charges is steadily increasing. I believe my friends on this side of the House are not satisfied that any honest attempt is being made to keep down the expenditure under this

head. I suppose these matters will receive the serious attention of the department and the Government.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to accord my support to Mr. Raman Pillai's motion. Formerly, salt was sold by Government officers in bankshalls. The depôts were spread throughout Travancore, but some twenty years back, if not earlier, that system was given up and consumers were at the mercy of the merchants and manufacturers. I would not have risen to speak on this point but for the fact that Mr. Van Ross, representing the Government in this department, has told us that the depôt in Trivandrum is being maintained to prevent any unconscionable profiteering by the merchants. Sir, I think the people of Trivandrum are in a very much better position than the people of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and other taluks where the number of merchants is limited and the capital is limited and private enterprise is not adequate to the demand. Rather than continuing the depôt in civilised Trivandrum for the purpose of keeping down profiteering, it will be very much more reasonable to afford relief to the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja who have to live far away from this place and prevent the merchants from making undue profits. Therefore, Sir, I think it is absolutely necessary to reconsider the question of bankshalls. What we have given up once, we have to take up again; and once the mistake has been found out, the precipitate action which the Government took some years ago may be rectified at least now. For that reason I give my support to Mr. Raman Pillai's motion.

Mr. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agustisvaram*): I fully support the view taken by Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Raman Pillai in regard to bankshalls. When we were at Alwaye recently to attend a meeting of the Forest Committee, this grievance of the public was brought before us as well. That is that the merchants took great advantage of the situation and the poor people were thereby put to very great trouble and loss. Therefore I am also of opinion that the re-establishment of bankshalls will be of great use to the public.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഉപ്പുവില്ക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാടു മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ പല അഴിമതികളും നടക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ കൂടുതൽ വിലകൊടുത്താൽ മാത്രമെ ഉപ്പു കിട്ടു എന്നു് ഇതുകൊണ്ടു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. സാധുക്കൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു. പിറവം അസിസ്റ്റൻറു എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ടിക്കററു വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടു ചെല്ലുന്നവൎക്കു മാത്രമെ മുനമ്പം ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാലയിൽ നിന്നും ഉപ്പു കൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളു എന്നും ചില കച്ചവടക്കാൎക്കു മാത്രമേ ടിക്കററു കൊടുക്കു എന്നും മററു കച്ചവടക്കാർ അവരോടു കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്കു വാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളണമെന്നും വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതാണു് കുഴപ്പത്തിൻെറ കാരണം. ടിക്കറേറപ്പാടുകൊണ്ടു് ഉപ്പിനു

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

ഇടങ്ങഴി ഒന്നിനു മൂവാററുപുഴ താലൂക്കിലെ മാർക്കററിൽ ആറു ചക്രത്തോളം വിലയായിരിക്കുന്നു. ചില കച്ചവടക്കാൎക്കു അന്യായമായ ലാഭത്തിന് ഇടയാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഈ ഏൎപ്പാടു സാധുക്കളെ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): ടിക്കററ് ഏൎപ്പാടു നിൎത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു മെമ്പൎമാരോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ശരിയാണ്, ഞാൻ ഇന്നലെ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസിനെ കണ്ട് ഉപ്പുവില്പനയുടെ കുഴപ്പങ്ങളെപ്പററി സംസാരിച്ചപ്പോൾ ടിക്കററ് ഏൎപ്പാടു നിൎത്തി എന്നു അദ്ദേഹം എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That ticket system existed only for a short period till the amendment to the Salt Rules was made. But it has now been abolished.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ മൂവാററുപുഴ നിന്നും പുറപ്പെടുന്നതുവരെ സംഗതി ശരിപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ശരിപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കാം. മുമ്പു മൂവാററുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ മുനമ്പത്തുനിന്നും ഉപ്പുകൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്ന വ്യവസ്ഥയെ ഏതാനും മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി. നടപ്പിലിരുന്ന വ്യവസ്ഥയെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തിയതുകൊണ്ടു തല്ക്കാലം നേരിട്ട കുഴപ്പമാണിതെല്ലാം എന്നും കുറെ കഴിയുമ്പോൾ കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ ശരിയാകുമെന്നും ആദ്യം വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ പല മാസങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞുവെങ്കിലും നാൾക്കുനാൾ ഉപ്പിനു വില കൂടിയും ദുരാചാരം വൎദ്ധിച്ചും കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചതാണ്. ടിക്കററു സമ്പ്രദായം ഇപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും നിറുത്തിയത് ആശ്വാസകരം തന്നെ.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuha cum Kunnatnad*): It is a point on which I also wanted to say something. But since I have got the assurance of the Excise Commissioner, I do not want to say anything. The people were really suffering on account of the ticket system. But since Mr. Van Ross says that arrangements have been made to change it, I do not say anything.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): The disbursement of salt from the Alleppey Bankshall has been causing a great deal of inconvenience. There are complicated and technical matters about the question. The fact remains that the merchants

who go there to buy their salt are very greatly inconvenienced. Once there was something like a veritable sensation and I had to go to the Excise Commissioner. I think he fully agreed with me that there were real difficulties and said that he would be taking steps to prevent the inconvenience. I do not know how far he has succeeded. Afterwards I had no opportunity of looking into the matter.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I want to know whether the member afterwards heard any complaints about the matter.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries*): Afterwards I was not at Alleppey and therefore I had no opportunity. But what I want to emphasise is that unless great precaution is taken, especially where there is a monopoly contract, very serious injury to the poor consumers will follow. I have got with me a list those who go to the Alleppey bankshall to buy salt, have to pay. It was given to me by one whom I consider to be reliable. I would mention only one of them, namely, the Dharma Fund, *Mullakkal chirappu* &c., for which, a person who goes to the bankshall, has to pay three chackrams.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Will the member tell me to whom?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries*): If the members do not want me to mention it, I shall keep quiet. The fact remains that my informant is a reliable person.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I want to know exactly who the person was that got it, as there are two agencies to sell salt now—the contractor and the Government.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries*): I only wish to say that this has become a regular tax upon the people.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I know who receives it?

PRESIDENT: You are not bound to answer that question. You may decline to answer, Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries*): Whatever the agency may be, the money goes out of the pockets of the people.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): Will Mr. Mammen Mappillai tell me to whom this amount is paid?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries North*): I do not want to say anything disparaging to Mr. Karayalar, specially as we are friends. He knows that I am the last person to say anything disparaging of him. But as I wrote to him, there is a far higher consideration than the claims of personal friendship; it is the inconvenience caused to the public that induces me to say all this.

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : It leaves an unfair impression upon my officers. I would therefore request him to tell me the person who receives the money.

PRESIDENT : You can make your own inferences; you cannot force him to answer.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : He may tell him privately.

MR. K.C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : I have got a list of ten or eleven imposts which every person who goes there is obliged to pay. I do not want to suggest that Mr. Karayalar's person takes the impost. Every person has to pay and who it is that receives is a broad surmise that Mr. Van Ross and I can make. But it is not possible to fix the responsibility of each person. I shall be very glad to show the list to Mr. Van Ross if he is not aware of the details. There is a very great oppression going on.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : In the public interests, will the member enlighten the other members of the Council ?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I ask Mr. Mammen Mappillai to enlighten the Council ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : I am not in a position to say anything more than what I have already said on this point.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) May I ask Mr. Mammen Mappillai whether the local firm with which he is associated has to pay these imposts in its own case ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : I am afraid that firm may also have to pay.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : The difficulty is that Mr. Mammen Mappillai is not prepared to say who the person is that receives the payment. But the list seems to be interesting. If he is prepared to read it, it may be to the advantage of the House. We may scrutinise the list and we may also be benefited by the knowledge of the the so called kind of imposts (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I press for an answer particularly because we would like to know the nature of the imposts made and who the recipient is.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*) : The member cannot make an aspersion on the staff of the Excise Commissioner. If the member cannot state facts, it is an out-and-out aspersion.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I am sure I did not make any aspersion on the Excise Commissioner.

I have been told by persons that there are certain inconveniences and that certain imposts have to be paid by people who want to buy salt. I may tell the Council that I am prepared to discuss the matter privately with any member. But I have to say that I did not make any statement which should be regarded as reflecting on the Excise Commissioner. I said these are facts and I ask the Excise Commissioner to look into the matter as far as it is feasible. I do not want to be lectured about what I should do and what I should not do. I know what I should do.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from Mr. Mammen Mappillai that in view of his statement that he does not cast any aspersion on the Abkari Department and in view of the fact that he does not wish to say anything against Mr. Karayalar, whether the particular imposts that he made mention of, on reliable authority as he told us,—

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I will give an example.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I have not finished the question. He is not prepared to cast any aspersion either upon the Excise Department or upon the contractor. I ask then, on what basis does he make the statement that the illegal realisation of certain imposts is going on? It is that particular ground that one should like to understand before the Council is rendered any assistance in the matter of investigation.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): There are coolies, for example, who carry the bags from the bankshall to the boats. They might be demanding more than their fair share.

It is not an aspersion either upon the Excise Commissioner or Mr. Karayalar. There are different ways in which salt is sold and the people are made to pay more than what they should.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask another question. Mr. Mammen Mappillai seems to have read one item in the list *viz.*, *Muliakkal chirappu*. It is a Hindu *chirappu* and we know the particular class of people who will ask for that payment. That places us in a very delicate situation. It is therefore that I want to know what the other items are.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I am not just now in a position to give them.

PRESIDENT: Will you please hurry up? Your time is almost over.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I trust the Excise Commissioner will look into these matters and see that people are not put to any difficulties.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI: (*Nominated*): Sir, I am a merchant doing business at Alwaye. The merchants of Muvattupuzha,

[Mr. M. K. Kadhir Pillai.]

Kunnatnad and Todupuzha are my constituents. I am dealing in almost all commodities except salt and a few other things. I know that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10 and Rs. 12, whereas the actual cost is Rs. 7 according to the Government rules.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Hear, hear.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): To get salt, the Excise authorities issue rules and select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioners or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner, and others alone get salt.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Hear, hear.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I know if the member had complained about this?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Yes, I had before the Dewan, and before the Excise Commissioner.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I asked the member to give evidence, but he did not.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But some others forged my name and sent a letter. The contents of the letter, however, are true; but the Commissioner did not send me the letter as desired by me.

PRESIDENT: The Excise Commissioner says that he wanted evidence and that you were not prepared to adduce evidence.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I did not send any letter, but somebody sent a letter in my name. The contents of the letter were true and I was prepared to give evidence. Although I stated that I did not write that letter, I wrote to the Excise Commissioner that the contents were true. I know and I am sure that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I ask Mr. Khadir Pillai who are the Assistant Commissioners?

PRESIDENT: What is it please? I do not hear you.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mr. Khadir Pillai was telling us that the Assistant Commissioners are in the habit of receiving illegal gratification. That was in the plural. When I questioned their names, he mentioned the name only of Mr. Mammen.

PRESIDENT: He did not.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, he did. What I wish to know is that how he happened to use the plural.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I know there are complaints from Changanachery and other places against the Assistant Commissioners.

PRESIDENT: You mean about other Assistant Commissioners?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Other Assistant Excise Commissioners. Mr. Mammen Mappillai told us that there is some *mamool* going on in the depôts. That also I can say is true, for in the Munambam Salt Depôt three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; the depôt officer will say: "It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to." and so on. So to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers. In our place, salt was sold at eight chackrams per *edangali*, the cost price of which is only three and a half chackrams. I have brought this matter to the notice of Government also, but I received no reply. The other day Mr. Van Ross told me that there was no complaint. I thanked him.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does the member think that the difficulty would be removed by establishing bankshalls?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I am for reestablishing the old bankshall system.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkkara*): The discussion on Mr. Raman Pillai's motion has disclosed very many important and interesting facts which should certainly engage the serious attention of the Excise Commissioner and the Government. I would refer to two matters. The first thing is about the defects consequent upon the monopoly system that is now prevailing in regard to the sale of salt. I should consider it to be better policy if Government had not given away the monopoly in respect of the transport and sale of salt to one and the same person. In that case, very probably these suspicions, at any rate, which have been so lucidly placed before the House, will not have arisen.

In the second place, I wish to know from the Excise Commissioner how it happened that a contract extending over four years has been given to Mr. Karayalar for the transport and sale of salt at Alleppey. I am really sorry that in this matter our position is rather delicate, inasmuch as we have to deal with a contractor who happens also to be a member of this House. It cannot be helped. Therefore I request the Excise Commissioner to place full facts before the House so that the contractor who is also a member of this House may be understood in the proper light by this House itself. I put a question regarding this matter at the last session of the Council and the answer given was that there was a breach of the previous contract entered into between the Government and the contractor owing to the fault of somebody, I believe, on the part of the Government, and that the contractor threatened Government with notice to sue and that as a compensation this contract was given. I put a supplementary question on this subject but

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

the answer was that the official member wanted notice. Although the President was in a position to give the information, under the rules he was not able to give the answer. Now I trust that Mr. Van Ross will explain in detail all the circumstances connected therewith. Some time ago, when a similar contract for the transport and sale of salt was given to Mr. Motha, I had occasion to interpellate Government on the very undesirable effects that such contracts will have, especially when the contracts are given on private negotiation and not in an auction open to all. The price has been fixed also on private negotiation. With the increment in the duty of salt it may have been possible for the Government to forgo at least a large proportion of the item under recoveries which used to be taken into consideration in fixing the price of salt. It would appear from an answer given in this House some time ago that the duty on salt was Re. 1 as. 4 and the cost and transport charges came to 10 as. and the price was fixed at Re. 1 as. 14. The price of salt was fixed after making allowance for wastage and the cost of establishment shown under recoveries. Now when the duty has been doubled, it should have been possible for the Government to forgo a large proportion under the item recoveries which now come to swell the contract. But for that contract, it may have been possible for a generous Government to deal generously with the people and give them at least that amount of relief which may have been possible. There are serious defects in the monopoly contracts, apart from the vagaries consequent upon that system. I should therefore disapprove such contracts being entered into in future.

In regard to the accumulation of salt at Tamaracolam which were washed away in the cyclone of 1098, some explanation is due. Three lakhs of maunds of salt were washed away. I would like to know whether that has anything to do with the contract. In that case there was some preference shown to Mr. Karayalar because I find that there are very many factory owners also who were put to severe loss and whose loss has not been compensated. Under these circumstances, I hope Mr. Van Ross will explain, on behalf of the department and the Government, in satisfactory terms.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I always held that during your administration you would make Travancore self-contained—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether it is open to a member to speak personally of the Dewan's action.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is proper.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I withdraw my statement. During the last three or four years I thought steps would be taken to make Travancore selfcontained in regard to the supply of salt. But in the speech that I made an hour ago I made it clear that the manufacture of salt is far from satisfactory. I heard with great grief

the Excise Commissioner singing over the grave of the salt factories in central Travancore. I wish that this question will be thoroughly enquired into, as salt factories in central Travancore mean transport charges almost *nil*. It will be a tremendous impetus to the industry. But I see that the matter is not being looked into. The salt factories are vanishing one after another. The excise system of manufacture and the sale of salt is by far the best system. But the second best system is the sale by the Government in depôts and bankshalls situated in convenient taluks wherefrom people could make their purchases. The abolition of this system is one of the greatest mistakes of the past administration. To add insult to injury and to jump from the frying pan into the fire, we see that the Government monopoly system has passed into the hands of a single individual. I heard Mr. Mammen Mappillai, one of the leading members of north Travancore, who seldom makes unnecessary complaints, speaking most bitterly of the method salt is being sold in the depôts. It is a tremendous impeachment. Mr. Khadir Pillai also supports Mr. Mammen Mappillai. These are very sad tales we had to hear this afternoon. I beg of you to thoroughly overhaul this department.

Mr. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): A word of personal explanation. I never impeached anybody. It is rather too strong an expression.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Impeachment of the system.

Mr. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries*): I simply indicated certain irregularities, but you cannot characterise it as impeachment of a person or system.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg of you to thoroughly overhaul the department.

PRESIDENT: You mean *the Government*?

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, the Government. Unfortunately the President and the Dewan are one here.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. Hoogewerf whether any impost was levied in the depôt during the time when he was acting Excise Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner?

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Many attempts were made. But I was always like a hawk upon them.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I know how many men he punished for that?

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There was no chance of punishing these people as no chance was given them to commit any fraud. (*Laughter*).

These are some of the remarks that I have to make on this motion.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-27 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-15 P. M.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, on behalf of my non-official friends, I may be permitted to submit a point of order for your kind consideration. The discussions on the motion under Demand II-Income-tax were cut short deliberately by us with the hope that the remaining time allotted for that Demand will also be made available for discussion of the motions under Excise. I may point out that the maximum time has been fixed under standing order No. 71 by which the President has the power to regulate the conduct of business in all matters not provided for by the regulation. So it is not a statutory limit and we beg that the remaining portion of the day be granted to us to discuss some of the important motions which are remaining under Excise.

PRESIDENT: I have no objection. It must be understood, however, that the total time taken for discussion on the motions should not exceed the statutory limit of seven days.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Some criticisms have been levelled against the administration of the salt factories in the State. In regard to the observations which Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai made regarding Mr. Nilakandan, I have to submit that it is very unfair to keep one officer in one place alone for a long time. From an administrative point of view as well as from the officer's point of view, it is very unfair to pin him down to one and the same place for an indefinite period.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is not the Devicolam Commissioner confined to that place?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That probably is a matter which could not be helped.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it at his own request that the trained officer is kept away from Tamaracolam? Has the Excise Commissioner ascertained the wishes of the officer concerned?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not felt the necessity for that. As a matter of fact, the transfer in question was made before I assumed charge of the department.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does Mr. Van Ross think there is any utility in the training of officers who are in charge of the *alloms*? Does he think such training indispensable or useless?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): From the administrative point of view, a specially trained officer is useful.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will any special knowledge of salt manufacture be useful to the officers in charge of the *alloms*?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They have to follow some particular directions. The enforcement of those directions is considered sufficient for all practical purposes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): So it does not mean that the aid of a special officer trained at the Government expenditure is useless?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not indispensable.

MR. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not a knowledge of chemistry useful for the manufacture of salt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I said that it might be usef l. I would be glad if the Council will give me more trained men. But a man could not be pinned down to a place. From an administrative point of view, it is undesirable. I have not many trained officers but only one. It is difficult therefore to make a choice.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Are we to understand that the assistance of a special officer is absolutely of no use?

PRESIDENT: He has already answered that it is useful but that it is not indispensable.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): With regard to the complaint that the price of salt has been raised, I have to make one or two observations. The merchants sometimes unconscionably raise prices much to the detriment of the poor. That is being constantly watched by my officers and myself. They are bound to report to me the fluctuations in the price of salt in any locality. Any merchant selling salt at a higher rate will lose the privilege of getting salt from the depôts. If the price at any place rises very high, we rush in salt as a temporary measure and offer it at a low price.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Have any such reports of officers been received by the Excise Commissioner?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, from Alwaye. If there was any continued necessity, temporary bankshalls would have been opened, but there was no necessity.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In Quilon I am told that the price of salt was increased owing to shortage of supply. Was it so?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware of that. There is a depôt at Quilon and there cannot be any shortage of salt. The people may also go to Alleppey for the salt.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why should not Bombay salt be imported to Quilon Depôt?

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Whatever action is necessary to keep down the price of salt is being taken. The question

[MR. A. J. Van Ross.]

of introducing bankshalls was condemned many years ago because the bankshalls were run by low-laid petty officers who took the place of the present-day traders about whom Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai and others complained and said that they are up to all kinds of corruption. That was why the old bankshalls were abolished. I have, however, no objection to enquire into the matter and reconsider the question with a view to open bankshalls in places where people are suffering from want of salt. With regard to the petty exactions imposed at the Alleppey Port Salt Depôt to which Mr. Mammen Mappillai made reference, I am sorry he did not bring the matter to my notice. When I was at Alleppey some time back in connection with Mr. Karayalar's contract, Mr. Mammen Mappillai did not inform me of it though we were talking together for over an hour. Had I known all this then, he would have given me an opportunity to conduct an investigation and put a stop to all these corruptions. I am ever anxious to put down malpractices.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I heard about this only afterwards.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS *Excise(Commissioner)*: When respectable persons come and tell me but do not produce evidence, how is it possible to punish my subordinates? If people do not come and give evidence regarding their complaint, what can I do? If Mr. Khadir Pillai had offered to give evidence, I would have run up to Alwaye and made an enquiry, but no such assurance was forthcoming. Under such circumstances, how can I punish a subordinate? That is the difficulty I experience.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Should an officer of the Excise Commissioner's position desist from making a legal enquiry, simply because a respectable man wants an enquiry to be made, but does not produce evidence?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): An enquiry could be made. But people must give evidence.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Did respectable men like Mr. Khadir Pillai tell Mr. Van Ross that in case an enquiry was made they would not speak the truth?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): More than one respectable man has said he would not say anything. He refused to give a statement. I am very anxious to check the abuses. If Mr. Khadir Pillai is prepared to give a statement, I am ready to make the necessary enquiry.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is not the complaint given by respectable persons sufficient?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It is insufficient to punish a man departmentally. I have to convince another officer of the guilt of the man and about the accuracy of the facts connected with that

evidence. Without that, it is hopeless. Wherever possible, I should like to put down this corruption.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether, in view of the definite statements given by Mr. Khadir Pillai, the Commissioner is prepared to take definite action and proceed with further enquiry?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I would like the member to tell me how the enquiry should proceed. If he keeps aloof and would not give me any indication of the officer's guilt, am I to go on a roving commission enquiring about the officer's conduct? I may assure him that no favoritism will be shown. I will try my best to find out the truth from the evidence. I wish Mr. Khadir Pillai will help me in this matter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): So, if Mr.Khadir Pillai is not prepared to give any assistance, you are not prepared to make an enquiry?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*); I will make private enquiry and see if there is any evidence. I wish that Mr. Khadir Pillai would give evidence.

Then in regard to Mr. Karayalar's contract, some reference has been made. I shall inform the House of the circumstances under which Mr. Karayalar's contract came to be entered into. In 1095, during the time of my predecessor, Mr. Karayalar made an offer to transport and sell salt at Alleppey. Mr. Raman Pillai thought that the opportunity should not be lost by Government because in his view it was desirable that the Government should retire from the direct sale of salt and leave such sale to the people themselves. He wanted to make a trial and see whether such experiment would succeed beneficially to the people.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether giving the contract to a single individual would not frustrate the very object of the Government?

PRESIDENT: He is explaining how it came into existence.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The idea underlying is that the sale of salt should not be the ordinary function of Government. It is only respectable people that could be entrusted with that function. Salt is essential to the life of every man. Government or the department should have some guarantee that the salt will be brought and sold. We should not give the contract to a man on whom no reliance could be placed. During Mr. Krishnan Nair's time, not only Mr. Karayalar's offer came but several other applications also came in. Mr. Krishnan Nair decided that the contract should be given to Mr. Karayalar. That was in 1095. In 1096 there was no salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether it was Mr. Krishnan Nair that decided or the Government.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was the Government that decided.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Was any intimation of the decision sent to Mr. Karayalar ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there an advertisement published in the Gazette?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was not done in 1096, as we were not able to give salt from the factory.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was there a contract in a legal sense ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. In 1097 there was some salt. We wanted to reserve some salt and to send some salt to the Trivandrum Depôt; when that was done, there was no salt for transport to Alleppey.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was notice of suit sent by Mr. Karayalar ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The law officers were then consulted. They said that the contract sanctioned by Government to Mr. Karayalar was a binding contract and that he had cause of action against Government for not giving salt to him. Government therefore negotiated with him and in consideration of his claim for damages entered into a contract for a term of four years.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What was the amount of damages he demanded?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): About Rs. 75,000. That was his claim.

PRESIDENT: For a year.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Who were the law officers?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not in possession of that information.

PRESIDENT: The law officers are a body well known to the public.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The cyclone came on at the end and washed away the salt left in the factory for transport.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know for how many months the salt was reserved, the quantity manufactured up to the end of Medam 1096 and whether the Government themselves carried on the business ?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many months after did the cyclone come ?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The manufacture goes on up to Medam.

MR. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): For how many months does the manufacture go on and from what time?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It is *Thye Pani.*

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many months after that did the cyclone come?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It came in Vrischikam just before the shipping season.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long was the salt on the ridges before it was removed?

PRESIDENT: He cannot tell you definitely because the process goes on continuously.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Cimmissioner*): Since we could not give him a contract at Tamaracolam, we had to give him the contract for Tuticorin salt instead. We took the opportunity of getting better terms with him in fixing the terms of the contract. That is how the contract came to be given to Mr. Karayalar. Of course in making an experiment of this nature, some loss under recoveries is inevitable, and the Government have to bear it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*); Is any rent charged for the salt bankshall at Alleppey? Do Government realise any rent from the contractor?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Instead of rent, we make him do all the maintenance work.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there any difference between Mr. Karayalar's sale price at Alleppey and the Government rate?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has the loss of salt by cyclone anything to do with the giving of the contract to Mr. Karayalar?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In making the second agreement, we demanded and obtained from Mr. Karayalar the recovery of transport charge of 1½ annas for a maund of salt that is sold as against six pies which was the commission which was fixed before.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the transport charge?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware. Mr. Karayalar must be able to give the information. I know the Government rate by sea to Alleppey. It is 6 to 7 annas per maund.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Including the price of salt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I want to know the price of salt and the cost of transport charge.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The price of salt at the factory --

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If it is home salt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The price of home salt will be two to three annas per maund.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The price of salt including transport charges?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not know what transport charges Mr. Karayalar may have to pay. Then there is a good deal of wastage. The contractor has to pay for every maund not delivered at Rs. 2½. There are the establishment charges and several other items of expenditure for him. When we had an opportunity, we got the best terms from him. I hope that I have told this House that, in the administration of this department, Government are taking every measure to safeguard the interests of the people, and as for the officers concerned, I shall see, with the help of those who will give me information and also by private enquiry, what can be done in the matter.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The monopoly of supply and sale of salt is with the Government and the Government have to use that monopoly for the good of the people and the people should be provided with good salt. But the policy pursued by the Government is to force the people to use salt which is not liked by them. In Quilon we do not get Bombay salt or local salt, and the salt supplied to the people is very bad. In reply to an interpellation which I asked in the last meeting of the Council, it was stated that Tinnevelly salt is less injurious than Bombay salt. But whatever may be the opinion of the experts and whatever may be the opinion of the Excise Commissioner, people do not think that Tinnevelly salt is better than Bombay salt. Even the Government officers in inviting tenders for contract prefer Bombay to Tinnevelly salt, and the ticket system in north Travancore is an example to show that the Bombay salt is liked by the people and not the Tinnevelly salt. Moreover, the salt which we are getting in Quilon, I do not think, tallies with the sample furnished by the contractor. Tinnevelly salt itself is very bad and the salt brought to Quilon is worse still. We are forced to eat that salt because we cannot purchase Bombay salt from Quilon, and one has to go to Alleppey to purchase Bombay salt. In Alleppey itself Bombay salt is sold along with Tinnevelly salt. If I want to purchase a sack of Bombay salt, I shall have purchase two sacks of Tinnevelly salt also which I do not want. When the contract for the supply of salt was given to Mr. Karayalar, the whole

quantity of Tinnevelly salt was with him, and this monopoly is liable to be abused, because Mr. Karayalar—I do not know whether he will do it; he can do it—can take two sacks of Tinnevelly salt and one sack of Bombay salt because it would be in his possession in large quantity and he can dictate terms to the merchants with regard to price and cause trouble to the people. I do not say he does so or he will do that, but there is the possibility. What I say is that the method of disbursement is anything but satisfactory.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): About Mr. Karayalar's cornering Bombay salt—

PRESIDENT: You may say that in your reply.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Five or six years ago, we were getting Bombay salt alone. I do not know why Tinnevelly salt was purchased by Government. Local salt is much better than Tinnevelly salt. We can disburse local salt to the various places in Travancore, but the Government would not do it.

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It has been already explained why Tinnevelly salt has been sent to Quilon. Because there was not enough local salt.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Ptlanamtitta*): We are not getting local salt or Bombay salt; but we are forced to eat Tinnevelly salt which is very bad and which does not tally with the sample. I put a question to Mr. Van Ross whether there is any scarcity of salt. He is not aware of it. But I am aware of it. Some merchants are trying to increase the price of the Tinnevelly salt which is supplied to the Quilon Depôt by Mr. Karayalar. Though we get bad salt, we do not find that the price is reduced. I have to bring these facts to the attention of Government.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I propose that the question be now put.

Mr. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I second the motion.

PRESIDENT: Is the House for a closure?

The closure motion was carried.

Mr. K. P RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not wish to take up the time of the Council in speaking about the various suggestions that have been thrown out. However, I must congratulate my friends for the fearless manner in which they have used their freedom of speech. My friend Mr. Khadir Pillai who has told the House that he has definite information that three pies were levied in excess by the Asssistant Commissioner—

Mr. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Not by the Assistant Commissioner, but by the authorities of the salt depot.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I think he mentioned the officer's name. The shorthand reporter's report will show what he said. (*Laughter.*)

[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): About the Assistant Commissioners, the merchants say they have to pay Re. 1 and depôt officer three pies. (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I thank you for the correction. Consistent with the higher pay he receives, he gets a higher sum; but the depôt officer gets three pies. Mr. Mammen Mappillai who has got business connection at Alleppey, who deals with salt, has told the House that he has got reliable information that as many as eleven imposts are levied These are matters which should receive serious considerations at the hand. of the Government and the Commissioner, who, I hope will take prompt action to put down such corruption because, salt, I need hardly say, is required by the poorest of the poor, and in the fair name of good administration any malpractices in the sale of salt, in the quality or quantity of salt that is sold should be put a stop to with a very stern hand. With these words, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 57 to 65.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI.

57. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 59,800 for salt business by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI.

58. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,07,975 for salt by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI.

59. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,07,975 for salt by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR.

60. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,07,975 for salt by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI.

61. To omit the allotment of Rs. 144 for personal allowance.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI.

62. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for travelling allowance of officers by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI.

63. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for travelling allowance of establishment by Rs. 200.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI.

64. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for law charges by Rs. 200.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI.

65. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for purchase of instruments by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 66

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

66. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 3,000.*

Under this item, the Excise Commissioner demanded last year a bigger amount than was necessary. This could be seen from the admission made by the Commissioner last year. He then unhesitatingly consented to a cut.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I would say I accepted the cut not because I demanded an unnecessarily large sum, but because I intended to try and make other arrangements if possible.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chiryinkil*): What I said was that he unhesitatingly consented to have the cut without any objection whatever. Now, again, the Commissioner comes forward asking for a bigger sum than that demanded last year. The last year's budget would show that the amount allotted was Rs. 12,000. Now he wants Rs. 1,000 more. I am at a loss to know why an increased amount is needed. We all know that the prices have gone down now. In this view, the Commissioner can very well accept a cut of Rs. 3,000 now.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In view of the general desire of the House that every possible retrenchment should be made, I readily accepted the cut last year. Instead of issuing two suits to each, as was usual in previous years, I issued to each officer only one suit, and then decided that I should make an experiment of issuing two suits only in alternative years. Hitherto we were getting back the old suits and auctioning them. This practice has now been stopped. The men will thus be able to use two old suits along with the new one.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Full trousers or shorts?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): As usual they were supplied with knickers. No full trousers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No shorts?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Could not a saving be made by the supply of shorts?

PRESIDENT: He is issuing shorts. That is what he says, I think.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Shorts are somewhat different from knickers. The difference is very little, but the knickers would look much neater.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know what was the actual expenditure during the current year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall tell you. I have not got the actual figures; for, this year we have not made all the payments. But it will come to about Rs. 12,000. I have been cutting my coat according to my cloth. I am introducing all possible changes in deference to the wishes of the members in order to effect all possible retrenchment next year. I have to supply two suits; otherwise the men will look ragged. For two suits for 1,500 men, 3,000 suits will

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

be required. I believe Rs. 10,000 will be required for that purpose. I will just read out to you the exact figures. In 1098, *i.e.*, the current year, only one suit was supplied to each officer. In 1099 two suits have to be supplied. In 1100, one suit has to be supplied. The stock available in 1099 is 2,870. Hence after distributing two suits for 1,500 subordinates, no balance will be left in 1099. In 1099, the usual purchase will be made for the next year. So, 1,500 suits have to be stocked in 1099 for supply in 1100. At the rate of Rs. 4 as. 8 for 1,500 men, the amount will come to Rs. 6,750. I have to buy Turkey red for turban and then water-proof capes which have been supplied only to half the number of men. This will cost Rs. 5,000. Then gold lace etc , have to be bought. Altogether the estimate comes to Rs. 14,624. I shall have to manage with Rs. 13,000.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 67 to 71.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

67. To omit the allotment of Rs. 72 for hot weather charges.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

68. To omit the allotment of Rs. 72 for hot weather charges.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

69. To omit the allotment of Rs. 72 for hot weather charges.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

70. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 700 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 200.

MR. A GOVINDA MENON :

71. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20, 742 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 72.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

72. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 41,340 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

In doing so, I wish to draw the attention of the House to certain drawbacks in the administration of the department. We have been noticing that the revenue under certain heads in this department is steadily going down; and in the Administration Report of the department, we find certain reasons therefor are alleged from year to year without due attention being paid to the statistics supplied by the very same department. In 1097, for example, the amount realised under Abkari, Opium and Ganja was less than in the previous year by Rs. 3,85,972. This fall in revenue was attributed by the Excise Commissioner to the reduction in the issue strength of arrack which diverted some of the arrack drinkers to toddy, the smaller purchasing power

of the people, the stringency of the money market, the higher price of liquor and the anti-drink propaganda. I shall presently show to the House that all these reasons advanced by the Excise Commissioner are unacceptable and that the real reason is to be sought and found elsewhere. For example, the first reason assigned is that, owing to the reduction of strength of arrack, people began to drink toddy. I submit it is common knowledge that, however weakened, the strength of the arrack will never be less than that of toddy. And a person who is accustomed to drink arrack would never resort to toddy. It is also pertinent to point out that the quantity of toddy available for consumption in 1097 was less than that in 1096, the number of trees tapped for toddy in 1097 having fallen from 72,965 in 1096 to 72,851. The allegation that the arrack drinkers resorted to toddy drinking cannot hold good because sufficient quantity of toddy was not available for that purpose.

The second reason that he advanced is the smaller purchasing power of the people. This, again, as I have attempted to show at the general discussion of the budget, is wrong. If the purchasing power of the people is to be judged from the value of imports, we find that in 1097 the value of imports was Rs. 4,93,75,571 against Rs. 4,76,71,391 in the previous year. Judged by this, we find that the purchasing power of the people was, if anything, greater.

The third reason advanced by the Commissioner is the higher cost of liquor. The years 1096 and 1097 come under the same biennial period of contract. How and why in the second year of the contract the price came to be higher and whether it is advantageous to the contractor to raise the price of arrack in the second year are matters which require explanation before these arguments could be accepted. We have also in that connection to remember that in 1097 the import of foreign liquor fell by 32 per cent.; the consumption of arrack fell by 25 per cent. and the toddy available was less by 11 per cent. so that the total reduction is considerable.

My submission to the Council is whether it is wrong to infer that this fall of 68 per cent. was made up by illicit practice. At page 7 of his report, the Commissioner gently hints about the recrudescence in illicit distillation. He states:

> The fall in the consumption of arrack was not confined to any particular tract or district but it was common to all the State. There was a general fall in the consumption of the intoxicants which contribute to the abkari revenue. The consumption of toddy, foreign liquor, opium and ganja also fell considerably. The main causes which led to the heavy fall in consumption are detailed below:—
>
> (1) The reduction in the issue strength of arrack.
>
> (2) The great trade depression and tightness of the money market which considerably reduced the purchasing power of the people
>
> (3) The anti-drink campaign.
>
> The reduction in the issue strength of arrack caused much dissatisfaction and there was in consequence considerable recrudescence of illicit distillation especially in the Nagercoil, Trivandrum and Quilon Circles,

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar]

I wonder what the Commissioner has to tell us of the increased activities of his army of Sub-Inspectors whom he insisted upon retaining last year, in the direction of detecting illicit practices. Looking at the statistics of excise cases, we find that the cases under the Abkari law detected in 1096 was 1071, while in 1097 it fell to 921, and it is also noteworthy that of the cases charged before the magistrates we find one in twenty-two ended in acquittal, while in 1097 one in twelve ended in acquittal. This shows that illicit distillation is on the increase and that the department is not able to get on with the work. I believe this is partly due to the system of Sub-Inspectors that has been introduced.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sub-Inspectors have been introduced only from Tulam 1098.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, in supporting Mr. Raman Pillai's motion, I have to advert to the temperance policy pursued by the department. This year an assurance was given in this Council that the department will be worked towards temperance; and in reply to a question which I put in this Council, it was answered that Mr. Van Ross is being asked to submit a scheme by the end of this year. But, by the policy pursued by the department after this assurance, one is led to believe that the department is not deviating from the old policy which it was pursuing to make revenue.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Will the member support his statement by facts?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I shall substantiate these statements. In the last Council, Sir, I said that the rules framed by the Government for the administration of this department were honored more in their breach. And even after the assurance given last time, these rules are very often violated. As an example, I shall say that there is a rule that shops should not be kept open after 8 P. M. But, generally in Trivandrum itself, yesterday and day before yesterday, I found shops open after 8 P. M. and there was a case at Paravur which was the subject of an interpellation that a toddy shop was opened after 8 P. M. and was kept open till morning. This was done after the assurance given to this Council and with the knowledge of the Excise subordinates that it is a crime and an infringement of the rule; but the answer which I got to my interpellation was that the Excise Commissioner had '*noticed*' the conduct of the Excise Inspector. At Trivandrum there are several shops which are kept open in the night, and if Mr. Van Ross will go with me one night I shall show him several shops which are thus kept open. Another thing is that there is an old circular to the effect that shops should not be located near temples, markets and other public places and thoroughfares. Now 876 shops are located in such objectionable localities. The department is not working towards temperance. I do not blame Mr. Van Ross or

anybody. I blame the system obtaining in the department. Another thing is—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know from the member whether he considers the closing of the shops during day time or during night is more objectionable from the standpoint of the public?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pttanamtitta*): I think if shops are kept open till late at night, generally the laborers, after work, will go to the shop and get drunk. So the drink evil will increase and besides give rise to theft and other crimes. Stolen articles are taken to the shops and sold in exchange for drink. The rule regarding early closing of liquor shops obtains not only in Travancore but in other civilised countries also. The revenue of the department has increased though it was not expected. The Dewan in his address at the last session of the Assembly said that if the fall was due to temperance movement he would be very glad. There are various causes and one of the most important causes for the increase of the revenue is the terrorism created by the free application of section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code during a short period of this year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does Mr. Madhava Variar know whether in England liquor shops are allowed to continue late at night till 1 or 2 o'clock?

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I ask this question on information given to me by a friend of mine who has gone to England and France. Is there any rule laid down *re.* closing of liquor shops in London?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I am sorry that I do not know anything about the conditions in England. At the same time I do not think it good for us to imitate those people.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Personally I am not of opinion that shops should be kept open till late at night. I asked the question to elicit information.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I was referring to the attitude of Government and the department towards temperance. I understand that one Singa Rayan was deputed to Cape Comorin with directions in the order to stem the tide of temperance there. I do not know whether my information is correct; but I make the allegation in the hope that I shall be corrected by the Excise Commissioner, if I am wrong. I understand also that a temperance meeting was dispersed by Mr. Satyavagisvara Aiyar at Agastisvaram. When Dr. M. N. Pillai interpellated Government said that they would enquire. Another matter is the new facility for regarding this matter the Government drink offered by the opening of 13 shops where flavoured toddy arrack could be had. I understand that the greatest Excise authorities are against the use of flavoured toddy

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

arrack. Mr. Thomas, an Excise Inspector, detected a case of transport of illicit liquor and successfully prosecuted the offender. But the excise authorities have asked his explanation for doing so. I have also interpellated Government about Mr. Rama Aiyangar of Ambalapuzha who prohibited shop-keepers from selling toddy and arrack in unlicensed areas. These shop-keepers generally take the liquor to the labourers working in the *punja* lands during harvest time. I think the excise authorities chastised Mr. Rama Aiyangar instead of appreciating his work.

PRESIDENT: There is, I believe, an interpellation on this subject which has not been answered by Government.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I make these allegations subject to correction. Then there is even now in Arukutty what is called the *Kathipanam* (കത്തിപ്പണം) scandal, under which each toddy drawer is forced to pay a certain amount to the excise officers there. This is an old grievance and even now I am told it prevails in Arukutty where every house is a shop. In 1098 Chingam, the shop-keepers at Alleppey had not paid one-tenth of the security within the period prescribed, but they were all the same allowed to sell liquor in violation of of the Abkari Rules. Toddy and arrack were brought for sale from the vend areas of Vaikam and Shertallai to Alleppey in violation of abkari law. I think that these will show that the rules are not enforced. If the rules made by Government are strictly enforced, there will be prohibition in this country. There need not be the fear that revenue will be diminished.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No subject is engaging public attention so much on the platform and in the press and in this Council itself besides the Popular Assembly as the Excise administration. There are, I believe about 85 questions in this Council about the excise administration. I may at once say that there is no personal equation in this matter. I must thank my friend Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai for bringing up the general principle of excise administration before this House to-day. It has been proved to the whole House that the excuse brought forward by Mr. Van Ross about the fall in the consumption of arrack is absolutely untenable. It cannot hold water for a single minute. Few people given to drinking arrack, however weak the arrack might be, will resort to toddy. Very few people except the laboring classes take toddy, especially in this cold weather, as it is generally believed that it may cause rheumatism.

Now, Sir, I should like to refer to the address of the Dewan of Travancore to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. I heard with grief the very great trouble in Cape Comorin referred to by my friend Mr. Madhava Variar. I got a registered letter from a parish priest there discribing the whole story. He said that the whole of Cape Comorin and the surrounding villages had become entirely temperate with the exception of a very few people. The people there were enjoying perfect peace and

happiness. Suddenly a thunderbolt came. I believe a Sub-Inspector was sent there, and it is stated in the registered letter that a good deal of confusion was created. This is a very sad story indeed. It was not upon any compulsion or under the influence of any law that the people became temperate. The people did so voluntarily. I think, if anybody has disturbed the peace there, it is a very great sin that has been committed. I hear complaints from all sides about the malpractices going on, especially in north Travancore. I had interpellated the Government but I have not been replied why the independent shop system has not been introduced in north Travancore and why shops have not been auctioned in certain places and they have been given to Mr. Nadar. The excuse was that the tree-tax in the adjoining Cochin territory was low and when the tree-tax in Cochin was raised to the same amount as the tree-tax on the Travancore frontier, the independent shop system would be introduced. We shall probably have to wait till the crack of doom, when that is done. In the memorandum of the late Mr. Brown regarding the tree-tax, he says that the tree-tax, should be low and rentals high. To make a long story short, when that is done, the price of toddy—

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I wish to know whether he proposes that the tree-tax should be reduced.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Certainly not. The price of toddy should be equal on both sides. Whether you do this or that, it is immaterial to me. But the excuses brought forward by Mr. Van Ross cannot hold water for a single second.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): This is a very important matter. Everywhere I hear of malpractices.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Mr. Hoogewerf had been for several years an Assistant Excise Commissioner. I wish to know whether he has succeeded in putting down malpractices entirely.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I was working day and night and have detected more grave offences than all the Range Inspectors of the State put together in certain years.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question. The question is whether you have succeeded, when you were Assistant Excise Commissioner, in putting down malpractices completely.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I have done my very best to do so and my Inspectors co-operated with me.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That is the case with other officers also. Their subordinates also co-operate with them and they are also earnest.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): May I ask one question? I wish to know whether, if the arrack drinker could not be persuaded to drink toddy, it is worth while to take all this trouble in dissuading him from drinking. (*Laughter.*)

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I would earnestly appeal to the House to bestow very serious consideration on this matter and do what can be done in the holy cause of temperance.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : I also wish to make a few remarks with respect to the excise policy, particularly in the Arukutty Circle which happens to be within my constituency. The independent shop system was introduced through out the State before 1089 except in the Arukutty circle where in 1090 the independent shop system in respect of jaggery arrack was introduced, but the rend system in respect of toddy was allowed to continue. The practice of levying a fixed amount from every tapper, known as *kathipanam* (കത്തിപ്പണം) also came into existence about 1090. Government have admitted in their reply to an interpellation sent by me that this system of levying *kathipanam* (കത്തിപ്പണം) was prevalent in the Arukutty Circle. I shall repeat my question and quote the answer I received:

"Q. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report from the late Excise Commissioner Mr. N. Raman Pillai, stating that the Excise Officers in the Arukutty Circle were receiving a monthly subscription of Re. 1 - 8 from every tapper in the Circle in return for a free license to sell toddy and make toddy arrack in his house, that to avoid the independent jaggery arrack shop-keepers' complaints they were forcing every tapper to buy a bottle of arrack from the arrack shop-keepers and that this system of issuing a bottle of arrack to a tapper was something like issuing free licenses to conduct malpractices ?

(*b*) Who were the officers thus reported against ?

(*c*) Have Government censured them for their malpractices ?

A. (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar and some of the Inspectors working under him.

(*c*) Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar was censured."

There are about 2,000 tappers in the Arukutty Circle and therefore the amount realised is considerable. Either because the punishment was very light or because the inducement offered is more powerful than the fear of punishment this practice continued, so much so that once in 1095, the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi, made a report to Government that a good deal of corruption prevailed there in respect of the excise revenue. I understand that the present Police Commissioner also has made a report to Government—I speakingam subject to correction—that the Arukutty tappers' strike was not due to any social movement but was entirely the outcome of the oppression by the local excise officers. In view of the fact that these questions have been prominently brought to the attention of the Government, I wish to know whether an impartial enquiry has been made in respect of the numerous complaints in regard to this excise division. It is high time that an impartial enquiry was made in respect of the complaints constantly made about the corruption that is prevailing in the Arukutty Circle. The attention of Government might have also been directed to this aspect of the question by the Assembly

member who represented Vaikam at the eighteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and spoke about the corruption of the Excise Department. These are serious allegations which ought to receive careful consideration from Government.

I understand that, in the Arukutty Circle, shops are conducted mainly in private houses. Sales are not generally conducted in independent shops. Every tapper's house is a shop and sale of toddy is conducted almost wholly in private houses. The independent shop system has to be introduced in this circle as soon as possible as the present practice of giving the contract to a single individual without auctioning is highly objectionable both on account of the loss to Government and the malpractices it gives rise to. I would request Government to take these facts also into consideration when dealing with the excise policy.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I am very desirous of making a few observations on the important subject now before the House. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has in a very able manner discussed the financial aspect, while Messrs. Hoogewerf and Madhava Variar dwelt more on the temperance movement in connection with the department.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mr. Velu Pillai should not think that I am opposed to temperance.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I never thought so. I advisedly made the observations, because, when a member deals with the financial aspect of the question, the temperance movement will be against that. The Government have from time immemorial given the public to understand that they are not anxious to push up the sale of arrack. I was an Excise Inspector at Ettumanur at a time when Kumaranalloor *utsavam* was in full swing. I did want to obey the orders of Government. I did not want to send a consignment of excise constables with a good deal of arrack to be sold illegally in order to obtain revenue. But at about 10 o'clock at night when I was vigorously patrolling about, fearing illicit practices, I found a large building in which arrack was sold—Government arrack—by a Government abkari contractor of the Kottayam range. I wanted to charge him for the offence I applied to my official superior for permission to take up the case. The Circle Officer said that he had given permission to the Kottayam contractor to take arrack outside his jurisdiction and sell it there, and said that whether it was sold at Ettumanur or Kumaranalloor the revenue would go to the State. I have nothing more to add to that. I wish that what Government expect is done by the Government officers.

Regarding the financial aspect, Sir, I have to say that it is very painful that the Travancore Government, although they allow these practices, are not able to get the benefit of the full income. Last time when the resolution about the temperance movement was being discussed, I said that the sins belong to the system rather than to the men. In the same manner with regard to the revenue, the sins are not

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of Mr. Van Ross, but have been gathered for a very long time. The Excise Commissioner, Sir, is an officer who is responsible to Government for about Rs. 90 lakhs. He has very little leisure. He is a hard-worked officer and when the temperance movement is in full swing throughout the State, he has got very anxious moments indeed. Now you will find, Sir, that the Travancore State is divided into eleven Excise circles. These circles are presided over by officers who are not of very great standing in service, junior officers on Rs. 175, called by the glorious name of Assistant Commissioners. I remember a time when the Assistant Commissioner was looked upon as a great officer. The senior Tahsildar used to consider it a great thing if he is promoted to the place of an Assistant Commissioner. It was a surprise to all why the system was changed. Co-ordination of eleven circles in Trivandrum is a very difficult matter. But if we revert to that old order by which we had as three Assistant Commissioners men of status, of high pay, seniors in service, who are able to control the operations of the subordinates, I think we shall be able to get much better revenue than we get now. Further at that time there was no hard and fast rule that the senior Inspector should become the Assistant Commissioner. But to-day all those who serve in the Excise Department for some time mechanically come to the top as Assistant Commissioners, and because you have prohibited importation of fresh people into the department efficiency is to some extent bound to suffer. I am quite aware of the fact that in these days of motor car travelling the Excise Commissioner will be able to travel to all parts of the country. Repeated visits of the Assistant Commissioner of a suitable status are different from the occasional visits of the Commissioner.

With regard to the appointments of peons and other subordinates, the powers now conferred upon the Assistant Commissioners are not to the benefit of the State. If the police constables can be recruited only by the Police Commissioner, I fail to see why these officers in the making should be given the patronage of appointing people. The result is, there is no uniformity of equipment. Any domestic servant, any cook, who happens to get the sympathy of the Assistant Commissioner, happens to be appointed as an exciseman whether he has got the physical or other fitness or not. I am glad to mention in this connection that the pay of the subordinates in the Excise Department has been raised. There is no act of greater justice that the Travancore Government can do. The subordinates of the Excise Department are in a unique position of difficulty They have not even got the sympathies of the public. I believe all of us who have read *Heart of Midlothian* will find that even in very civilised countries a smuggler is looked upon as an object of sympathy and not of disgust. Therefore you will find that the excise peons do not get at least the respect commanded by the policeman. His condition is not looked upon with sympathy.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am finishing, Sir. The lot of these poor people is hard indeed. They have very hard work. They have not only to struggle with thiefs and smugglers. They have also to struggle with darkness in whose company they have to move about. That the pay of such men has been raised is very creditable to the State. But if we want to get the full benefit, I am emphatically of opinion that the present Assistant Commissioners would not do. There should be superior officers who could legitimately aspire to the post of Excise Commissioner. I am suggesting this for the consideration of the House, and I may add that, unless assisted by higher officers the Excise Commissioner, however active and intelligent he might be, will not be able to discharge his work satisfactorily. Therefore, I beg to remind the House that the defects are of the system and not of the men.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Though I confess my inability to speak with authority upon the subject under discussion, I would also raise my humble voice in support of the noble cause of temperance in view of the fact that some friends on the non-official side may find it not quite discreet to raise their voice in their anxiety to combat the "internal enemy" because of their trepidation at the prevailing practice in some of the constituencies which are the stronghold of alcoholic triumph. Sir, the fight against the internal enemy is a serious necessity and I am in full sympathy with all that has been said by the previous speakers in that direction. With respect to the question raised by Mr. Madhava Variar, I had my own doubts whether it may not be advisable to close the shops during day-time. For, as a matter of fact, it causes greater inconvenience to the public at large. For if drinking habits are occasionally indulged in during night time, it may probably be due to a desire for secrecy, and further, in some cases, it may be that some people may think they may go conveniently to sleep after drinking. If that is the real object in drinking during the night—I myself am not in a position to say, it is so—it is better to allow the shops during night time instead of their being a great inconvenience to the general public during day time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai tell me whether there is not the chance of the man drunk coming home and beating his wife and children? (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If he is a confirmed drunkard, that may be done during day time also. That does not mend matters. I hope the question raised by Mr. Madhava Variar regarding the possibilities of bettering the situation will be considered. Then he said that in all the civilised countries the shops were closed during night-time. But that assurance is not rested upon anything like a solid foundation, as he was unable to give us any information of the practice obtaining in England and other places.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): A point of personal explanation, Sir. What I told him was that

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in the night thieves and other persons may come to the shops and may create hubbub and there are very many serious crimes taking place near the shops.

PRESIDENT: He is criticising your statement.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am coming to the other statement, that thieves would collect during the night and drink at liquor shops and then will commit thefts here and there. If that were so, if under the influence of liquor people are going to commit thefts, they are capable of being detected easily. (*Laughter*). I think this is something to our advantage. Certainly I am not advocating the question of drinking at all. I am preferring the lesser evil of the two.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I am also in favour of closing the shops during day and night.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very glad to hear that. I thought that Mr. Madhava Variar was of opinion that the shops might be kept open during the day and closed at night.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What I said was that the rules are not observed.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In consideration of the nuisance, I would request the Government to consider the rules in this matter also, going into the question more fully as to why people are addicted to drinking during night. The other question I should like to place before the House, as I see from the statistics, relates to import of foreign liquor. In the year 1096, 834 gallons were imported into Travancore through Alleppey; in 1097 the quantity seems to have gone up very high to 2,392 gallons.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): What liquor?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Foreign liquor. So that it is practically about three times the quantity of the previous year.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): For which year?

PRESIDENT: 1097.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: (*Ambalapuzha*): I have got the figures for 1096 and 1097. I may refer you to page 28. There you will see the quantity of foreign liquor imported for 1096 by sea through Alleppey on payment of duty is 834 gallons, and that for 1097, 2,392. Surely, that is an alarming figure, whatever be the indulgence with which we may view the play of indigenous liquor in our midst.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The quantity imported in 1097 showed a decrease, the imports being 5,325 and 1,523 7 gallons for 1096 and 1097 respectively.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am referring to page 28 of the Statistics of Travancore printed in 1097, issued and published by Government.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The member is speaking of the Alleppey Port alone. The total is less.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The member is referring to the small figures elsewhere.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Just look underneath.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): From British India the quantity imported is becoming less and less. I fear it is because of the consumption there. (*Laughter.*) Well, no doubt, that is an alarming figure, and if this year also the quantity is going to rise, that indicates serious things.

PRESIDENT: As the Excise Commissioner says, it has gone down.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is an achievement in it self. (*Laughter*). This foreign invasion by foreign liquor is a more dangerous thing and I raise my voice of protest against it. And it ought to be the endeavour of Government to check it as far as possible. This is what I have to offer by way of general observation.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I should like first of all to make a few observations with regard to someside remarks by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and Mr. Madhava Variar about day and night drinking. It seems to me that the chief reason for the closing of liquor shops during night time, as desired by social reformers, is to prevent labourers from spending all their time and earnings in liquor shops. If that is an object of the social reformers it is worthy of support by this House. With regard to the replacement of arack by toddy, though I have no personal experience, I should like to say that in certain taluks where toddy was formerly unknown and arrack was exclusively drunk, arrack has disappeared and toddy has taken its place for two reasons. First of all, it is cheaper and secondly, it is a larger bellyful for the same amount of money and therefore people prefer that. Also if toddy be allowed to ferment for a sufficiently long time, its effect upon the brain is very much stronger than arrack. So arrack is giving way before the invasion of toddy.

With regard to the policy of the Excise Department the Government of our country in common with the Governments of other countries, always claim that their earnest desire is to restrict the consumption of liquor and that they are not at all desirous of gaining any revenue out of this consumption fraught with grave danger to the health and prosperity of the people. Also it is claimed that any sudden restriction in the consumption of legitimate liquor will result in an increase in illicit manufacture of intoxicating liquors. All these are more or less true, and they have to be taken into account in framing the Excise policy of the Government. But considering the very large revenue derived fro n the Excise Department and the straits to which all Governments in these days are subject in balancing their budgets, one might be pardoned if one is sometimes sceptical about the energy of the

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department in giving effect to this very enlightened policy of the Government. When one sees the operations of the department throughout the country, one cannot find any sincere desire or endeavour really to restrict the consumption of liquor. The one desire of the officers of the Excise Department, I don't say it refers only to Travancore but it is applicable to all other countries also—the one outstanding feature of the Excise Department is the attempt to make revenue without paying much attention to the temperance aspect of the question. Sometimes remedies to bring about temperance may be worse than the disease itself. Therefore I am not one of those who advocate any drastic measures unless the country and the people are prepared for these things. I suggest that the Excise Department should cautiously try the policy of drastic reduction in certain selected localities. Non-official advisers should be appointed in order to check the number of shops and also the consumption of liquor. We are told that the number of shops in the country is being reduced every year. But I have reason to fear that though the number of shops on records may be reduced, the number of places where liquor is available are not reduced. In most villages liquor is available for sale in unlicensed premises.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Can the member tell me whether it is in the area under the independent shop syetem or elsewhere?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : Indian shops. If persons who are sincerely desirous to bring about temperance reform are chosen in one or two selected areas with due discrimination by the Government and if they are given some voice in an advisory capacity, to watch the places where liquors are sold and also to advise the department as to the location of shops, the persons to whom licenses should be granted etc., it may be possible, to effect some good. At least it is worth while to try the experiment in one or two areas. If the system is found to be successful, this may be extended gradually. I do not know whether Travancore is sufficiently advanced to try the system of local option which has tried and found useful in some of the advanced countries Europe and America. It may be worth while for the Department to try these two measures in a very cautious manner in certain selected areas.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : എക്സൈസിലുള്ള പലേ കാര്യങ്ങളിലും തിരുവനന്തപുരംമുതൽ വടക്കോട്ടുള്ള കഥകളാണ് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കാൻ ഇടയായതു. എന്നാൽ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വളരെ കുറവുണ്ടെന്നോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ഭേദമുണ്ടെന്നോ ഉള്ള തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ വന്നുപോയേക്കുമെന്നുള്ള സംശയത്താലാണു ഞാനും രണ്ടുവാക്കു പറയാമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്. കള്ളുകുടി തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തിനു തെക്കൊ വടക്കൊ എവിടെയാണു കൂടുതലെ

ന്നുള്ളതു് അന്വേഷിച്ചുതന്നെ അറിയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. മദ്യവർജ്ജനം കൊണ്ടോ മറേറതെങ്കിലും തരത്തിലോ കുടി കുറഞ്ഞുപോകണമെന്നു എല്ലാ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും അത്യാഗ്രഹമുണ്ടു്. അതു സാധിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നപക്ഷം രാജ്യത്തിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരു മഹാഭാഗ്യമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ് മദ്യവർജ്ജനംകൊണ്ടു കുറഞ്ഞില്ലെങ്കിലും ആയതു വർദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെയും ആഗ്രഹം. തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിൽ രാത്രിയിൽഷാപ്പുകൾ തുറന്നു വില്പന നടത്തുന്നു എന്നും എക്സൈസ്കമ്മീഷണർകൂടിവരുന്നപക്ഷം അദ്ദേഹത്തെ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാമെന്നും മിസ്റ്റർ വാഴ്വർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അങ്ങനെ ഇവിടെ നടക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പററി അപൂർവ്വമായോ ആശ്ചര്യമായോ ഗണിക്കേണ്ടതില്ല. ഇതിന്റെ അധികം ഉപദ്രവം ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിലാണ്. ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽപോയാൽ രാത്രി അടയ്ക്കുന്ന ഷാപ്പുകൾ വളരെ കുറവാണ്. എന്റെ വീട്ടിനു സമീപത്തു പല ഷാപ്പുകൾ ഉണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ രാത്രികാലങ്ങളിൽ ദൂരസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പോയിട്ടു പന്ത്രണ്ടും ഒന്നും മണിക്കു തിരിയെ വരുന്നസമയങ്ങളിൽ ഷാപ്പുകൾ തുറന്നിരിക്കുന്നതും, കച്ചവടം ചെയ്തുവരുന്നതും ലഹളകൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതും കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു.

എന്നാൽ ഇതിനെ ഞാൻ കണ്ടു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഒരുദിവസം അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥലം തഹശീൽ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ ഒരു ചേലത്തിനുവന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ രാത്രി ൯ മണിക്കുമേൽ എന്റെ വീട്ടിൽ വരികയുണ്ടായി.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Will the member be pleased to tell me whether he has, at any time, given information to the local officers?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavakod*): What is the use of giving information to the local officers?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): If the local officer did not take any action, then we can take action.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I do not think he wants a reply to that statement.

അദ്ദേഹവും ഞാനുമായിട്ടു രാത്രിപത്തുമണിക്കു വെളിയിൽ ഇറങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ കുറെപേർ കള്ളുഷാപ്പിൽനിന്നും വന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തോടുപറഞ്ഞതു് അവിടെ ഒരാളെ അടിച്ചു ബോധം കെടുത്തിഇട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും വന്നുനോക്കണമെന്നുമായിരുന്നു. ഞങ്ങൾ അവിടെചെന്നു നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുതുറന്നിരിക്കയും ധാരാളം ആളുകൾ കൂടിയിരിക്കയും ഒരാളെ അടിച്ചുബോധം കെടുത്തി ഇട്ടിരിക്കയും ചെയ്തതുകാണാ

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

നിടയായി. എന്നാൽ ഇതൊരു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടുകൂടികണ്ട ഒരുസംഗതിയാണ്. രാത്രികാലങ്ങളിൽ ഷാപ്പുകൾ നടക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ധൈര്യമായിട്ട് എനിക്കുപറയാൻ സാധിക്കും. രാത്രിയിലുള്ളവില്പന അവിടെ ഓരോദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു. ഇങ്ങനെ രാത്രികാലങ്ങളിൽ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകൾ തുറന്നു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിൽനിന്നും മോഷണം ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നും മിസ്റ്റർ വായ്യർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇത് ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ താമസിക്കുന്നവർക്കാണ് അധികവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു്. രാപകൽ അദ്ധ്വാനിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിൽ പലസാമാനങ്ങളും മോഷ്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നു. ഇതിനു കല്ക്കുളം താലൂക്കിൽ കോതനല്ലൂർ പകുതിയെ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി എടുക്കാം. അവിടെ രണ്ടുപ്രധാന ചന്തകൾ ഉണ്ട്. മോഷ്ടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന സാമാനങ്ങളിൽ കള്ളുഷാപ്പിൽ വിററു കുടിച്ചതിന്റെ ബാക്കി ഈ ചന്തകളിൽ വിററഴിച്ചുവരുന്നതു സാധാരണമാണ്. ഈ രണ്ടുചന്തകളിലും കാലത്ത് അഞ്ചുമണിയോടുകൂടി കച്ചവടം തീർന്നുപോകുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാർമുതൽ പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർവരെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടു പറകയും അവർ വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയത്നപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ പ്രയത്നം ഫലപ്പെടാതെ ഇന്നും ആ ചന്തകൾ കാലത്ത് അഞ്ചു മണിയോടുകൂടി കച്ചവടം നടത്തിപ്പിരിഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): May I ask the member if any of the shop-keepers have been convicted for having stolen articles?

PRESIDENT: Not stolen; what he says is that the articles are bought by he shop-keepers from them.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavancod*): Their own articles as well as stolen articles.

ഇനി എനിക്കൊരു സംഗതി പറയാനുള്ളതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കാരം നടത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറു കാണിച്ച വലിയ അബദ്ധത്തെപ്പററിയാണ്. അതായതു എക്സൈസ്ഭരണത്തിന് ഏററവും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ള പെററിയാഫീസറന്മാരേയും ശിപായിമാരേയും കുറച്ച് ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കി സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ നിയമനത്താൽഎക്സൈസ് ഭരണനയത്തിനു വലുതായ ഒരു ഉടവു തട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സകല ആളുകളും അറിഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനു കമ്മീഷണരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ലാഭം കാണിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം

സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരുടെ നിയമനത്തെ ഈ സഭ തടയുമെന്നുള്ള ഭയമാണ്. പെററിയാഫീസറന്മാരേയും ശിപായിമാരേയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയല്ലാതെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുടെ നിയമനത്താൽ ആശിച്ചിരുന്ന അല്പമായ ഒരു ഫലംപോലും സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈ അവസ്ഥ ജനങ്ങളും എക്സൈസ്കമ്മീഷണരും അറിഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. താമസിയാതെ തന്നെ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ എത്തുന്നതും ആണ്.

ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും സബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും തമ്മിലടി ധാരാളം തുടങ്ങീട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു ഞങ്ങൾക്കൊക്കെ അറിയാം. ചില ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ എക്സൈസ്കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അടുത്തും എത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവർ തമ്മിലുള്ള വഴക്കുകൾ തീക്കുന്നതിനു കമ്മീഷണരുടേയും അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണരുടേയും വിലയേറിയ സമയം ധാരാളം ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ എത്തുന്നതും ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ വിലയേറിയ സമയം ഇതിലേക്കു വിനിയോഗിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതുമാണ്.

മറെറാരുകാൎയ്യം എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെ നിയമനങ്ങളെ പററിയാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നു എന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. അവരുടെ സൎവീസുനോക്കിയൊ പരീക്ഷാവിജയം നോക്കിയൊ അല്ല നിയമിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറനിയമനംകൊണ്ടുതോന്നുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽഉള്ള ആളുകളുടെ സൎവീസിനേയൊപരീക്ഷാവിജയത്തേയോ തോതാക്കി നിയമനം നടത്തിയിരുന്നുഎങ്കിൽ അതിലേക്ക് ഒരുസമാധാനം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ഈ യോഗ്യതകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടല്ല സബ്ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സഞ്ചാരത്തിലും മററു വിധത്തിലും എങ്ങനേയൊ കുറെ ആളുകളെ കണ്ടുമുട്ടി അവർ യോഗ്യന്മാരാണെന്നുള്ള മക്കടമുഷ്ടിയോടുകൂടി നിയമനങ്ങൾ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിയമനങ്ങൾ പലക്കും മനോവേദനകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതും അവരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ ഇതേവരെ തീൎത്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തതും ആകുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗദാനവിഷയത്തിൽ കമ്മീഷണർ ഈ നയം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കാൎയ്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു വലുതായ കേടു പററുന്നതാണ്. ഇക്കാൎയ്യവും കാലക്രമംകൊണ്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടാതിരിക്കയില്ല. ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറധികൃതന്മാൎക്കു നിയമനാധികാരം കൊടുക്കുന്നതു ഗവർൺ

[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിച്ചു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ അവക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്ന അധികാരങ്ങളെ ഒരിക്കലും ദുരുപയോഗപ്പെടുത്താതെ ഗവർൺമെൻറു സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഇനി എനിക്കൊരു സംഗതികൂടി പറവാനുണ്ട്. വ്യാജമായി കള്ള്, ചാരായം ഇവ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നത് ഓരോ ദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. മുൻ കാലങ്ങളിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണനിഷ്കർഷകൾകൊണ്ട് ഓരോസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വാററിവന്നിരുന്ന യന്ത്രങ്ങൾ അപരവരുടെ തട്ടിൻെറ മുകളിൽ നിക്ഷേപിക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇടക്കാലം മുതൽ ആ യന്ത്രങ്ങളെ തപ്പിഎടുത്തു അററകററം തീർത്ത് ഇപ്പോൾ യഥേഷ്ടം ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നു ധൈര്യമായി എനിക്കു പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇത്ര ധൈര്യമായി ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പറയുന്നതിനു ഇടയാക്കീട്ടുള്ളത് എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പിലെ ഭരണം ഓരോ ദിവസവും ദുഷിച്ചു ഇത്തരം പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് അവരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഈ നിലയെ ഗവർൺമെൻറു നല്ലപോലെ അന്വേഷിച്ചു ശരിയാക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു മാത്രമേ എനിക്കിപ്പോൾ പറവാനുള്ളു.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, several very serious charges have been brought against the administration of my department, and I am glad that an opportunity has been given me to explain away what I think to be a misapprehension in several cases.

Mr. Raman Pillai has said that the abkari revenue is falling year by year. The abkari revenue, I admit, has fallen in 1097, compared with the revenue yielded in 1096. But Mr. Raman Pillai has forgotten that the revenue increased by Rs. 13 lakhs from what it was in 1095.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it due to any particular supervision on the part of the Excise Department?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Whatever it is, the consumption of arrack rises or falls with seasonal and trade conditions. A large increase in one year is usually followed by a fall in the next year. With the boom in trade in 1095, as may be seen from the Administration Report, the consumption of arrack rose considerably. If people have money to spend, the consumption of arrack rises.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. Van Ross whether the trade condition in Travancore has ever been fluctuating; and whether on the other hand it was not steadily increasing?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I must correct a misapprehension. The figures in my report are the figures that represent

the tariff value of the goods. The *chowkeys* are not in a position to obtain the real market values. But I may say that the market value has been very poor for our articles of produce.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am referring to the increase of trade as given in the statistics volume.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The figures in the statistics volume are those that I supplied. These figures represent only the tariff value.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the customs revenue is an indication of the progress of trade?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The customs revenue is based on the tariff value.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I want to know whether, for the determination of the so-called economic stress, the returns in the customs revenue are not to be taken into consideration.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The quantity in goods is correct. But the value given is not the correct market value, because the customs officers are not able to know the market value.

PRESIDENT. Generally the tariff value is not altered.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does not the tariff value depend upon the market value?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Generally it is so. But the market values fell sometime back and it is not feasible for the department to alter tariff values now and then with the variations in market values. We are in hopes that, with the improvement in the condition of trade in Europe, the market values will go up and there will be no necessity to alter the tariff values. The customs figures show that there has been no depression in the value of the trade because we keep to the old tariff values.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner the data upon which he comes to the conclusion about market values?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I would request the member to see the figures in the Madras dailies. These news papers give the figures relating to trade.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Our trade?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It is common knowledge that the market value of our products has come down since 1095—the value of our cocoanuts, *copra*, etc.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): The price of ginger?

[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Ginger is the only article that has gone up in price recently.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): How many times?

PRESIDENT: We are speaking of 1097.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know from the Excise Commissioner whether the customs house figures are not the best test to find out the value of trade.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Ordinarily it would be, since the tariff values usually approximate to market values.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know if the customs reports show the actual figures?

PRESIDENT: That depends upon the tariff value, which remains the same.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does that not show that there is less of quantity manufactured and sold?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not say that there is a less quantity manufactured. But the value of the same quantity is very much less.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How does the customs report show an increase?

PRESIDENT: Because the tariff is higher.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Van Ross whether, when both the exports and the imports show a rise, the balance does not show a favourable condition of trade.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The direct imports into our State do not give a correct indication of the purchasing power of the people, since the imports are mainly for Government and for some large firms.

I will proceed. When the economic condition of our people is low, naturally the consumption of liquor will fall. But I do not say that the whole fall is due to this. It is also due to the reduction in the issue strength of liquor. As soon as the issue strength was reduced from twenty-five to thirty and from thirty to thirty-five, we immediately observed a fall in the consumption, and reports were received of recrudescence in illicit distillation. It is well and good for the House to say that the Excise Department should put down illicit practice. This cannot be done in a day. Special steps are now taken to check the recrudescence in distillation. Special parties were sent to Karinkulam and Neyyattinkara where it was said that illicit distillation was rampant.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): How long has this department been in existence now?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): This department was reorganised in 1084.

So long as we have people who are prepared to indulge in illicit liquor, so long will malpractices exist and the Excise Department will continue to try to put them down. But there are practical difficulties. For example, we cannot rush into a house without proper information that illicit distillation is going on there. We should get information and people are very slow to give us any information.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Van Ross how many cases of illicit distillation were detected by the Assistant Excise Commissioners during 1098—I mean personally detected?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot answer him now. I shall get the figures only at the end of the year.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Now that Mr. Van Ross is not able to give the information, I may ask another question. Can Mr. Van Ross give any *one* instance of an Assistant Commissioner having *personally* detected any case?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have just received a report that Assistant Commissioner Mr. Nilakandan and Inspector Mr. Govinda Pillai have been assaulted in detecting a case of illicit distillation at Quilon. That one instance will show that Assistant Excise Commissioners do detect cases themselves.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Was it not at Tangasseri?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Not at Tangasseri, but near it.

I said that the fall in the consumption of arrack is due to illicit distillation. But I must join issue with some of the members when they say that the fall was due to the introduction of Sub-Inspectors. These officers did not exist in 1097. They were introduced only in Tulam 1098.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Do not a fall in the revenue and a fall in the number of cases detected indicate that the supervision exercised by the department is inefficient?

Mr. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am prepared to explain that it does not show that. There was a strong wave of the temperance movement; the country was greatly affected; and there was a fall in the consumption of arrack. In 1097, the anti-tapping movement was very strong and many of the shop-keepers had made up their minds not to take up any shops in the next year and consequently they evaded payment of *kist* in 1097. Some of the officers became nervous and were reluctant to enforce preventive measures in certain areas as they thought such action would alienate the sympathies of the shop-keepers entirely.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) Are those nervous people still in service?

[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am trying to bring those nervous people to my view of the matter. I have since informed them of my views and things are now very much better.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, if the shop-keepers kept away from paying, how they now come forward.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They kept away then, but they have come forward now.

Mr. Raman Pillai said that my reasons are all fallacious. I would say that it is a fact reported to me by my Assistant Commissioners that with the reduction in the issue strength of arrack many of the poor, finding that the weak liquor did not satisfy them, gave up arrack and went in for toddy.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will Mr. Van Ross please say if arrack is not more intoxicating than toddy?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not in a position to tell him.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): We have a right to know the Commissioner's expert opinion on the matter.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry I have not got the information.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): From personal experience?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have no personal experience.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if any analysis of toddy has been made.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Analysis has been made of arrack.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Not of arrack. I wish to know about the analysis of toddy.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No analysis has been made of toddy. All I can say is that, when toddy is taken in excess, it intoxicates.

With regard to the criticism of Mr. Raman Pillai, I am glad that I have an opportunity of explaining the situation to him. Before I introduced the Sub-Inspectors, preventive work was not satisfactorily attended to. An Inspector was in charge of a range with a couple of Petty Officers posted at either end of the range. I was myself in charge of divisions for seven or eight years. I found that the work with such a small and low-paid staff could not be done satisfactorily. All cases were not reported; the Inspector was not able to supervise and control the range satisfactorily along with his many other duties.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Did he make any representation to the then Excise Commissioner?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have no information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the Inspector is not able to have control over the petty officer, will he be able to have any control over the Sub-Inspector? He is a more highly paid officer.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not say that he was not able to control the Petty Officer. I said that he had no time to do his work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of the total number of Sub-Inspectors appointed, how many petty officers were promoted to that rank?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not got the exact figures.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): He can say roughly.

MR. A. J· VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Over 75 per cent. of them are petty officers and clerks. I can submit figures showing the various items of work done by the Sub-Inspectors.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I would point out that these statistics have been furnished in answer to an interpellation.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): But these figures were not given in the answer. I will give the figures up to the end of Mithunam 1098. In several of the ranges, detection work showed an increase of from 50 to 340 per cent.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How many cases have been brought to conviction?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The member may take it from me that almost the usual percentage of the cases of conviction has been obtained.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Van Ross say whether these offenders have in fact anything to do with tapping?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Many of these men are connected with the tapping profession.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): How many cases were contested?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say exactly. Almost all the cases are contested.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): How many of the cases mentioned by him relate to illicit distillation and how many of them to tapping?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In Muvattupuzha we had 58 cases last year as against 185 this year, *i. e.*, an increase of

[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

219 per cent; in Kunnatnad we had 63 last year, and 98 this year, *i.e.*, an increase of 56 per cent; in Alangad, 27 against 41, or an increase of 51 per cent; in Devicolam (North) a percentage increase of 25; in Nagercoil 20 against 44, or 120 per cent; and in Shencottah 180 per cent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many of these were tapping cases and how many cases of illicit distillation?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall give the figures relating to grave offences. 294 grave offences were detected.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What are grave offences?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Grave offences mean illicit distillation and illicit possession of arrack. The Sub-Inspectors in addition to this have marked over 36,000 trees and have made 270 and odd house searches.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): What are the offences that are not grave?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Ordinary possession of toddy. The possession of toddy does not seriously affect the revenue because we get tree-tax.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): How many cases were brought to conviction?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I forget that. In Nagercoil, out of 35 cases charged in 1098, 26 cases ended in conviction. In Kalkulam—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will Mr. Van Ross tell us how many of the people convicted were old offenders of the department? When the annual report is prepared and printed, this information may also go along with that.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That may be done, if possible.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask if there is lack of harmony between the Inspectors and their subordinates?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was an apprehension expressed by some of the members at the last budget debate that there will be disharmony between these Inspectors and the Sub-Inspectors. But I may say that there is no foundation for any such apprehension.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Has the Commissioner got information about the Pattanapuram taluk?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have not had any report about any quarrel there. I may assure the Council that I am in full sympathy with all the members in regard to the necessity of

putting down malpractices. But I must once more say that the country must be ready for it. Yesterday one of my Assistant Commissioners was assaulted very badly. Certainly that does not show that the country is prepared for the abolition of the sale of liquor. We are working under great difficulties. We have not got any one to back us in the matter of detecting cases.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Can Mr. Van Ross assure the Council that the assault was not due to the white liver of these officers?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Will the member please repeat his question? I did not hear him.

PRESIDENT: Cowardice.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): They would have run away if they were cowards and would not have remained to be assaulted.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know from Mr. Van Ross to what he has to say about *kathipanam* referred to by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai.

PRESIDENT: I may now tell the House that the extended time allowed for the Demand has elapsed. The remaining motions therefore lapse. I present Demand III—Excise, Rs. 5·17 lakhs for the acceptance of the House.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

Motions 73-114.

The following motions lapsed, the time limit allotted for the Demand having expired:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

73. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,132 for clerks by Rs. 6,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,132 for clerks by Rs. 966.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

75 To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

78. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 850 for transport of opium and ganja by Rs. 300.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,020 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 1,000.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

80. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

81. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,300.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

82. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,089 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 3,000.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON :

83. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,089 for supplies, service and contingencies by Rs. 540.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

84. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,992 for Division Offices by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,49,098 for Sub-Inspectors, etc., by Rs. 49,098

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI :

86. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,49,098 for Sub-Inspectors, etc., by Rs. 24,060.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

87. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,49,098 for Sub-Inspectors by Rs, 24,060.

MR. G. PARAMÈSVARAN PILLAI :

88. To reduce the allotment of Rs 1,49,098 for Sub-Inspectors, etc., by Rs. 24,060

MR. A. HOOGEWERF :

89. To omit the allotment of Rs. 24,060 on account of the pay of Sub-Inspectors.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

90. To omit the allotment of Rs. 24,060 on account of the pay of Sub-Inspectors.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON :

91. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,49,098 for Sub-Inspectors, etc., by Rs. 19,860.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

92. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

93. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,600 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 5,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

94. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,600 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 4,300.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

95. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for upkeep and maintenance of motor boat.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

96. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for upkeep and maintenance of motor boat.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,250 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,250.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

98. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,250 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

99. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,165 for the training of two Inspectors in Distillery work in Madras.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

100. To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,31,900 for Ranges by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

101. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,31,900 for Ranges by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

102. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 300.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

103. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 200 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

104. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,570 for Inspectors by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

105. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,320 for Sub-Inspectors by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

106. To omit the allotment of Rs. 656 for establishment of motor boat.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

107. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,190 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 1,190.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

108. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for the upkeep and maintenance of motor boat.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

109. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for the upkeep and maintenance of motor boat.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

110. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for the upkeep and maintenance of motor boat.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

111. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

112. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,200 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

113. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 79,200 for Customs by Rs. 10.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

114. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·17 lakhs under Demand III by Rs. 100.

The House adjourned at 5—26 P. M. to meet again at 11—30 A. M. on Wednesday the 8th August, 1923.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1923.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The Council assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-three of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Interpellations.

94. Mr. M. N. Pillai (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the number of interpellations of which notice was given by members at the last session of the Council;

(ii) the number of questions that were answered;

(iii) the reasons for the remaining questions being left unanswered; and

(iv) whether any questions the answers to which were ready were left unanswered for want of time?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) how many interpellations of which notice was given for the November sittings of the last session were left unanswered even after the April sittings; and

(ii) why they were left unanswered in the April sittings?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will make arrangements for utilising the whole time allotted for answering interpellations so that questions the answers to which are ready may be answered?

Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) (i) 451.
(ii) 322.

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[MR. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

(iii) There was not sufficient time to scrutinise the information received in some cases, while in others information was still due.

(iv) The answer is in the negative.

(b) (i) 22.

(ii) Because the answers were not ready.

(c) This will depend on the number of questions for which answers can be got ready.

Malayalam Short-hand.

95. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that Malayalam short-hand writing has been successfully tried in Trivandrum; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to encourage the study of Malayalam short-hand?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have employed one of the men who have qualified themselves in the subject.

Malayalam Typewriter.

96. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of any invention of a Malayalam typewriting machine; and

(b) whether they have received any application for pecuniary help from the inventor?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) and (b) An application has been received from Mr. N. Sankaran Pandalai for a loan of Bh. Rs. 700 for perfecting a Malayalam typewriting machine said to have been invented by him.

Registry of Lands in Palode Reserve.

97. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of (i) wet land and (ii) garden land have been registered in favour of private individuals in the Palode Reserve in the Nedumangad taluk;

(b) the names of those persons and the extent of land registered in the name of each; and

(c) whether there are any applications for the registry of lands in this reserve still pending with the Government, and, if so, why?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) and (b) A statement* containing the information required is laid on the table.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Fees for Private Visits of Government Medical Officers.

98. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*). (a) Have the Government fixed any rates in regard to the fees for private visits, etc., of medical officers of the different grades?

(b) If so, what are the rates so fixed?

(c) If there are no rates, will the Government be pleased to prescribe them?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) and (b) The fees for medical attendance on private patients have been fixed by Government as per Circular dated the 19th August, 1896, published at page 1398 of the Government Gazette dated the 25th August, 1896.

(c) This question does not arise.

Shashtyabdapurti Memorial Medal.

99. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any prize known as the *Shashtyabdapurti Memorial Medal* has been instituted for award to the student who passes first in the Ayurveda Examination; and if so, when it was instituted and who is in charge of the fund for the purpose?

(b) Has the medal been yet awarded to any student who has passed the Ayurveda Examination, and, if not, why?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes. It was instituted in 1094 M. E. The funds are vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments, Travancore.

(b) No. Because the amount left after disbursing the scholarships instituted under the scheme has been so far found insufficient to cover the cost of striking the medal.

Stipends to Graduate Teachers under Training.

100. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a stipend of Rs. 50 alone was allowed hitherto to graduate teachers selected for training?

(b) Is any modification of this rule proposed, and, if so, why?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes.

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* *Vide* Appendix I — page 412.

[Mr. K. George.]

(b) Since a diminution in their emoluments would cause them hardship, Government have sanctioned the teachers of departmental schools undergoing training in Training Institutions being given, as stipends, the substantive pay which they were drawing immediately before their deputation for training.

Savings Bank Accounts.

101. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnathur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the amount of money deposited in the savings banks of the State during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097;

(ii) the amount of money disbursed in the shape of interest on those amounts;

(iii) what use has been made by the Government of such savings bank deposits;

(iv) the amount of money realised, if any, by the Government as interest on the deposits; and

(v) whether the Government have incurred any, and, if so, what loss on this account?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (i) The following statement shows the amount of deposits in the Sirkar savings banks during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097:—

		Rs.	Rs.
	1095.		
Treasury	...	9,78,187	
Anchal	...	19,49,267	
			29,27,454
	1096.		
Treasury	...	5,70,336	
Anchal	...	18,60,055	
			24,30,391
	1097.		
Treasury	...	7,35,880	
Anchal	...	17,89,920	
			25,25,800

(ii) The amounts of interest disbursed during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097 were as follow:—

Year.		Rs.
1095	...	87,046
1096	...	93,184
1097	...	91,929

(iii), (iv) and (v) The amount of savings bank deposits is neither invested separately nor ear-marked. It forms part of the

State cash balance, out of which investments are made when there is any surplus.

Recruitment of Tahsildars, Magistrates and Assistant Excise Commissioners.

102. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state the principles they follow in the matter of recruiting Tahsildars, Magistrates and Assistant Excise Commissioners of the State and how seniority is determined amongst acting Tahsildars and Magistrates?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): These officers are ordinarily recruited from men in the service with due regard to their pay, length of service, qualifications and merit.

The question of seniority does not arise until confirmation.

Minimum Out-turn prescribed for Munsiffs.

103. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to order that the minimum number of contested suits to be disposed of by the District Munsiffs *per mensem* be reduced from 40 to at least 30, in the interests of the litigant public?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Accommodation in Railway Carriages.

104. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): With reference to the answer given to question No. 108 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 9th Vrischikam, 1098, will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they have any information about the arrival of additional rolling stock, and, if so, how many among such are now being used on the Travancore line;

(ii) whether they are aware that the inconvenience caused by the lack of accommodation in railway carriages has not yet been removed, especially in the day-trains; and

(iii) whether they have invited the attention of the railway authorities to the inconvenience and danger to which the third class passengers are put on account of the shutters not being provided with proper bolts, springs, etc., and of the dirty condition of the carriages?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(i) and (ii) The purchase and supply of rolling stock is still under correspondence with the Agent, South Indian Railway.

(iii) Yes.

Travelling without Tickets on the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway.

105. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that many passengers

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

are travelling in the trains, especially on the section between Quilon and Trivandrum, without tickets ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to conduct an investigation into the matter ?

(c) Are the Government aware that no proper scrutiny or check is exercised by the railway authorities in this direction ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) In the light of the answer to part (a), the necessity for the investigation does not arise.

(c) Government have no information. They will forward the interpellation and the answer to the South Indian Railway authorities.

Publication of Legislative Council Proceedings.

106. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the cause of the delay in publishing the Legislative Council Proceedings; and

(ii) whether the delay is in the Secretariat or in the Press ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (i) and (ii) The proceedings for the last session have already been issued. The delay was to a large extent due to the delay on the part of some members to return their speeches revised.

Local Purchase of Medicines.

107. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount which the Darbar Physician is authorised to spend at a time for local purchase of medicines ?

(b) Has he exceeded this amount at any time, and, if so, on how many occasions ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) The Darbar Physician is authorised to purchase medicines ocally to the extent of Rs. 25 at a time.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Swiss Milk for Hospitals.

108. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent in 1097 and 1098 for purchasing Swiss milk and where this was purchased from ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The amounts spent in 1097 and in 1098 up to date for the purchase of Swiss milk are:

Year		Rs.
1097	...	8,236
1098 (up to date)	...	6,367

Swiss milk is supplied by the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.

Promotions in the Education Department.

109. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state on what grounds promotions to the first grade of teachers on the provincial staff are made in the Education Department?

(*b*) Does length of service alone count?

(*c*) Are length of teaching experience, better qualifications, work in Form VI, and production of successful results not considered?

(*d*) Is no special consideration in the matter of promotions shown to teachers belonging to very backward classes?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) On grounds of service and efficiency.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No. An officer must rely on his own merit for promotion.

Petitions re. Promotion in the Education Department.

110. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether all the memorials of teachers relating to promotions to the first grade are referred to Government?

(*b*) If not, for what reasons are they withheld?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The memorials received by the Director need not, in every case, be referred to the Government, because it is within the discretion of the head of the department to deal with them as he deems proper.

Aided Schools.

111. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent on Government schools of all grades (except colleges) and the corresponding grades of aided schools, under teaching staff, buildings and furniture, respectively during 1096 and 1097.

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A statement* containing the information required is laid on the table.

* Vide Appendix II—page 413.

Appendix I.

Vide Answer to Question No. 97.

Statement showing the area of wet and garden lands within the Palode Reserve registered in the names of private individuals.

No.	Names of persons.	Garden lands.		Wet lands.	
		Acres.	Cents.	Acres.	Cents.
1	Rev. W. J. Edmund ..	20	25	59	34
2	Mr. Lawrence Netto Jacinth Netto ...	...	...	13	96
3	Mr. V. Narayana Pillai ..	17	84	...	...
4	Mr. C. V. Raman Pillai ...	44	...	...	...
5	Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai ...	250	...	...	...
6	Mr. R. Ananda Rao ...	137	21	...	...
	Total ...	369	30	73	30

Appendix II.

Vide **Answer to Question No.** *111*

Expenditure on departmental and aided schools during 1096 and 1097

Teaching staff.

Serial Number.	Institution.	1096. Departmental. Rs.	ch	c.	1096. Aided. Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Departmental. Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Aided. Rs	ch	c.
1	English High Schools for Boys ...	3,07,401	21	4	8,332	...	..	3,45,537	11	8	8,725	...	...
2	English Middle Schools for Boys ...	60,202	...	...	2,043	...	...	62,320	...	..	1,873	..	...
3	English High Schools for Girls ...	29,588	12	7	14.925	...	...	24,982	9	9	18,075		
4	English Middle Schools for Girls ...	13,843	21	12	1,325	...	...	17,569	9	13	2,000	..	...
5	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Girls ...	1,45,867	21	9	29,106	27	13	1,72,607	10	2	30,830	26	12
6	Vernacular Primary Schools for Girls ...	1,48,604	6	11	41,453	22	7	1,79,336	17	5	48,309	18	6
7	Special Schools for Girls ...	12,013	12	7	9,717	4	1	16,672	26	6	4,449	8	11
8	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Boys ...	4,67,800	13	5 }	3,29,681	26	2	4,44,145	24	14 }	4,29,324	20	11
9	Vernacular Primary Schools for Boys ...	4,67,630	2	8 }	...	...	...	4,01,073	6	3 }	...	...	...
10	Special Schools for Boys ...	19,547	17	8	15,076	2	6	19,805	23	8	2,378	26	7
11	Reformatory ...	1,601	15	15	...	...	..	1,746	20	14	...	...	...
	Total ...	16,74,181	5	6	4,51,660	26	13	16,86,816	20	2	5,45,968	16	15

Buildings.

Serial Number.	Institution.	1096. Departmental. Rs.	ch	c.	1096. Aided. Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Departmental. Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Aided. Rs.	ch	c.
1	English High Schools for Boys ...	2,066	...	.	...	...	...	3,746	...	...	2,616	...	...
2	English Middle Schools for Boys ...	1,169	...	...	...	...	...	1.328	...	...	...	...	...
3	English High Schools for Girls ...	...	...	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	6,440	...	...
4	English Middle Schools for Girls ...	920	.	...	...	...	...	796	20	...	...	...	...
5	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Girls ...	6,118	6	2	...	...	...	5.475	4	2	...	...	...
6	Vernacular Primary Schools for Girls ...	4,990	16	1	...	...	...	5,351	3	11	...	...	...
7	Special Schools for Girls ...	977	4	...	...	...	...	977	4	...	...	...	...
8	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Boys ...	14,647	3	12	2,750	...	...	21,677	1	1	...	...	...
9	Vernacular Primary Schools for Boys ...	14,312	1	5	...	...	...	24,947	10	7	...	...	...
10	Special Schools for Boys ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Reformatory ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	45,220	3	4	3,250	...	...	64,298	15	5	,056	...	...

Furniture.

Serial Number.	Institution.	1096. Departmental Rs.	ch	c.	1096. Aided Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Departmental. Rs.	ch	c.	1097. Aided. Rs.	ch	c
1	English High Schools for Boys ...	2,164	...	...	...	...	...	2,113	...	...	...	...	...
2	English Middle Schools for Boys ...	951	...	...	789	...	...	1,351	...	...	...	...	...
3	English High Schools for Girls ...	4,999	27	..	459	...	...	606	25	..	2,435	2	11
4	English Middle Schools for Girls ...	250	...	...	...	...	...	250	...	...	...	...	...
5	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Girls ...	461	8	...	...	...	...	500	...	...	...	...	...
6	Vernacular Primary Schools for Girls ...	350	...	...	...	...	...	350	...	...	...	...	...
7	Special Schools for Girls ...	100	...	..	...	...	...	299	27	4	...	...	...
8	Vernacular High and Middle Schools for Boys ...	908	3	12	...	...	...	3,897	19	...	...	...	...
9	Vernacular Primary Schools for Boys ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,283	...	...	...	...	...
10	Special Schools for Boys ...	175	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	...
11	Reformatory ...	100	17	13	...	...	...	134	24	3	...	...	...
	Total ...	10,460	0	9	1,248	...	...	11,086	11	7	2,435	2	11

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Continued.*)

DEMAND IV.—FORESTS.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·83 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 115.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, motions Nos. 115, 116, 117, and 118 have been sent up by me for reasons of a similar nature. So I submit that I may be allowed to make these four motions together, that is to say, that the demand of Rs. 4,71,300 under timber and other products removable by Government agency be reduced by Rs. 62,000. My object in sending up these separate motions was to understand from the authorities what the Rs. 62,000 is made up of.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I cannot comply with your request. You can point out, as each motion is discussed, where the expenditure could be reduced.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

115. To reduce the allotment of Re. 1 lakh for the removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 10,000.

This is the first time in the history of the forests of Travancore that a Travancorean is appointed as Conservator of Forests, and I grant that it is not time enough to judge of his work in administering the department. Whatever observations I make are made with a view to get information and to point out to the Council that the administration of this department ought to be watched carefully. During the time of the general discussion on the budget, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai told us that the fundamental basis on which forestry rests is the conservation of the forests and that the realisation of revenue is only a secondary consideration. I agree with him in this; and in fact it is on this principle that I have sent up this motion. When we look at the administration report of the department for 1097, we find that the output by Government agency was 6,50,414 cubic feet, and the cost of extraction went up to Rs. 5,46,981. This works up to 14 as. per cubic foot. We also find from the administration report that the quantity of timber of all species sold is 11,04,542 cubic feet. The price realised for eleven and odd lakhs of cubic feet of timber is Rs. 12,13,322, so that the price realised per cubic foot of all species of timber is Re. 1-1-6; and deducting as. 14 on account of the cost of extraction we find that the profit we realise on one cubic foot of timber is as. 3 p. 6. From this we have to deduct the establishment and other charges. For the year 1097, the income was Rs. 2,67,903 and the revenue realised in that year was Rs. 15 and odd lakhs. So that the overhead charges roughly come to about as. 2 p. 4 per cubic foot. Deducting this from the as. 3 p. 6, we find that

the profit the department makes is a. 1 p. 2 per cubic foot. I need hardly submit to this House that that is a very small profit indeed. That we should sell our timber of all species at an average net profit of 1 anna and 2 pies per cubic foot is certainly a bad business. And we have also to remember that a good portion of the eleven lakhs of cubic feet we disposed of in 1097 was made up of royal trees. We find that the cost of extraction is yearly increasing; and it is bound to increase hereafter particularly because we have yet to tap the resources of the forests inside our reserves. As the work of extraction goes on and as we proceed inner and inner, we shall find that the cost of extraction is bound to increase. I would like to hear from Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai as to what steps he is going to take to cut down the cost of extraction in the future. On looking through the Administration Report for 1097, I find that there is a balance of 9,84,014 cubic feet of timber lying unsold in the forest depôts or elsewhere. The average disposals during the previous years are 6,62,447 cubic feet, 7,97,152 cubic feet, and 8,67,690 cubic feet, respectively, so that I submit that the unsold balance in the hands of the department must ordinarily have been sufficient to meet the demand that might be made upon it in 1099 for timber, and that the quantity extracted from the reserves ought to be kept down in proportion to the demand that will be made year after year. Otherwise, it will lead to serious errors because we find that the total expenditure on the department in 1097 was Rs. 9 lakhs and odd. We had to sell 11 lakhs of cubic feet of timber besides ivory and various other products to realise an income of Rs. 15 lakhs. On the other hand, if we had invested this sum of Rs. 10 and odd lakhs in a good concern, I submit we would have conserved our reserves and kept the whole establishment for purposes of conserving our resources without selling one cubic foot of timber; so that I agree with the Conservator in thinking that the revenue is only of secondary consideration and that the work of extraction may be kept as low as possible and that it need only be undertaken just to conserve the forests on scientific lines and to meet the local demands.

I would also draw the attention of the House to the sale of large quantities to wholesale purchasers during the last few months of the year which is also a bad policy. The Conservator says:

"These precautions enabled the department to reduce the stock somewhat, as will be evident from the fact that the balance on hand at the end of 1097 was only 9,84,014 cubic feet against 12,61,889 at the end of 1096, and even this stock will be further reduced now that the Government have sanctioned during 1098 the proposal for the whole sale disposal of the old stock at the water depôts to Messrs. Sabnis & Co. of Bombay".

This indicates the amount of anxiety on the part of the department to extract as much timber as possible and also a great deal of hurry in disposing of them. All my submission is that timber in the depôts is as good as cash in the treasury and no anxiety need be shown in disposing of all these timber.

I may also point out that in the disposal of timber the department should undertake to supply sawn materials also. The people ordinarily have a dislike for buying round logs and it is therefore

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

the duty of the department to see that the people are not forced to go to foreign vendors. I understand that they take the demands in the various markets into consideration and engage a private firm or somebody to convert logs into sawn materials and sell them to the public. That is what is done elsewhere. If we are able to understand the market conditions and demands made, I think, it would be far more profitable to us than the present system. Mr. Rama Rao had this idea when he started the saw mill which has since been disposed off. I believe there is no dearth of private firms ready to undertake this business if proper terms are offered to them. So I move that in order to keep down the extraction to the demand required, this sum of Rs. 10,000 may be reduced from the allotment of Rs. 1 lakh.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I thank my friend Mr. Raman Pillai for the several suggestions he has made in his speech. I may inform the House that the points which he has brought out are already receiving consideration. Unfortunately I have not got all the figures which Mr. Raman Pillai gave as regards the extraction of timber. But I see he has included there expenditure on establishment, in the calculation of net profit. Whether there is a sale of timber or not, the establishment has to be maintained, and this is necessary in the interest of conservation and for the safety of the forests. The Forest Department is a quasi-commercial department, and the sale of timber also forms part of its duty. Though forests have to be conserved, some revenue also has to be derived from them; otherwise it will serve no purpose. But the profitable sale of timber depends on several factors such as the existence of demand, the condition of the market etc., and conclusions arrived at by comparison of figures cannot be satisfactory. Mr. Raman Pillai has also alluded to the increased cost of extraction. It is true that the working charges have gone up very high during the last few years. But I am happy to inform the House that it is coming down gradually and that I have during the last few months been able to reduce it by about 4 to 6 annas per cubic foot in the case of some species.

The question of opening further roads is engaging the attention of the department, but it has to be pointed out that forest roads are very costly to open and equally expensive to maintain, and considerable care has to be taken before we undertake such work.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether it is not a fact that more money is being spent on buildings year after year than on communications?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Unfortunately, it has been so. During the last budget discussion, Mr. Mammen Mappillai referred to a building somewhere to the north of Alwaye, built at a heavy cost but rarely occupied. I understood later that he referred to the Forest Rest House at Ezhattumukham which was built for us by the P. W. D. at a cost of very nearly Rs. 12,000. We cannot afford to go in for such costly buildings in future. Hereafter, we

will have only small buildings constructed that will serve the purpose of forest officers.

Mr. Raman Pillai referred to a balance of about 9 lakhs and odd of cubic feet of timber lying in forest depôts and elsewhere, and suggested that when there was such a large stock in hand, there was no necessity to go in for fresh fellings. With regard to this, I have to say that this stock is composed mostly of timbers under the custody of contractors and this will take usually a year or two to reach the depôts. They will be available for sale only when they are delivered in the depôts and we cannot wholly count upon them to give us the revenue of the year. Further, teak and other timbers require drying and seasoning for a year or so before they can be floated; and unless we have fresh fellings, the supply for subsequent years also cannot be regulated.

Mention was also made that the department hurries up sales during the last months of the year and large quantities are disposed of to wholesale purchasers. I admit there is some truth in the first statement, but not in the second. There might have been one or two instances of such wholesale disposal some years ago, but I know of no instance in recent years. As regards the large disposals referred to towards the end of the year, I have to inform the House that such sales take place only in the water depôts to which timbers are delivered when the rivers get flooded during the months of Mithunam and Karkatakam. Usually when fresh timbers arrive at the depôts, there is a rush made for them by merchants and others while the P.W., Maramat and Panivakai Departments also make their selection immediately. There is a brisk sale then. Cottonwood and other softwood timbers deliverable to purchasing firms also reach the depôts at this time and value is also realised for them. The official year closes by Karkatakam unfortunately and the sales effected during this period are shown in the accounts of this month which make the public think that we rush our sales during the last month of the year. Unless the official year is made to end in some other month, we cannot avoid it; but of course that will not be possible.

Mr. Raman Pillai also referred to the wholesale disposal of royalties to Messrs. Sabnis and Co. Some words of explanation appear necessary as regards this about which there appears to have arisen some misconception in some quarters. A few years ago, when there was the rubber boom and when people all over the State went in for extensive plantation of rubber, insistent demand was made on the Forest Department to allow them to cut and remove the royalties standing in their estates; but, as all the timber, if removed to the depôts, could not immediately be sold, the then Conservator Mr. Subramanya Aiyar sold such trees wholesale to the estate owners themselves some of whom made a good round profit on the transaction later by the sale of such timber, as the price rose very high. My predecessor Mr. Raman Menon thought that, instead of the timber being sold to the owners, if it was worked down to the depôts, the profit would have gone to Government and so stopped such sales but allowed the owners to work down the timber to the depôts paying them the working charges.

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the price per cubic foot of those timbers that were sold to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They were sold at 50 per cent. of the tariff rate.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many annas?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It can very easily be calculated. For third class timber, it will be 12 annas.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there no uniform rate?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Teak and blackwood are classed under three classes. For first class teak, the tariff rate is; Rs. 3-4-0 for the second class, it is Rs. 2-4-0; and for the third class it is Re. 1-8-0.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the actual rate at which the timber was sold to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

PRESIDENT: It can very easily be calculated. It is 50 per cent of the above tariff rates.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not know the tariff rates. What is the rate for first class teak?

PRESIDENT: It is Rs. 3-4-0. The Conservator has already mentioned it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know the approximate cost price per cubic foot?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About 25 per cent. of the tariff rate on an average. We had spent 6 to 8 annas in some cases and in others it was about 5 to 6 chackrams per cubic foot.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know why that reduction of 50 per cent. was made.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): These timbers were worked down from lands taken up for the cultivation of rubber. The price of timber was ruling very high at that time when there was the War and it was thought that by working it down departmentally much profit could be secured. But unfortunately the expectations were not realised. Immediately after the conclusion of the armistice, the price of timber fell and the timber could not be sold. Having been collected wholesale from estate lands, the quality of timber was also so bad that nobody would buy them later for any decent price. For five years they were lying in the depôts, and we were not able to effect their disposal. For the stock in one or two depôts, repeated tenders were invited thrice for the wholesale purchase, but there was no response. When I took charge of the department, they were offered at 75 per cent. of the tariff rates. A small quantity of selected timber was sold; but that could not help us much.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether Messrs. Sabnis and Co., have taken delivery of all the timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am coming to that. In spite of reduction in the price, they have not been able to pay for and remove the whole. The market has since gone down still further.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The market—

PRESIDENT: Won't you please hear him?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On account of the depression in the price of teak, I understand they are hesitating to take delivery of any more timber. It remains to be seen whether they will continue or not.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I wish to know whether the 50 per cent. concession was offered to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. Tenders were invited by me as Divisional Forest Officer twice for the stock in the Vettikad Depôt and later by Mr. Raman Menon. When I took over charge, tenders were again invited for the purchase of the stock in all the water depôts. But there was no response to any of these tenders. No Travancorean came forward.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether the reduction of 50 per cent. was offered to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I say tenders were invited several times and none came forward. No Travancorean came forward then or later even with an offer.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Was retail sale contemplated?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Retail sales and sales in monthly auction were also going on during this period of five years, and when tenders were invited. But the sales were so poor that the prospect of disposing of the timber by these means was very remote indeed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what quantity would remain if the company fail to complete the contract?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say yet whether they are going to break the contract. It remains to be seen.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I know something about the timber taken by Messrs. Sabnis and Co., Bombay. I have seen a good deal of it. More than 50 per cent. of that timber is absolutely useless. It is a very good bargain for the Travancore Government indeed.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): The price of timber has gone down. Government usually supply timber to foreigners. I wish to know why they did not reduce the tariff rates and give it to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As I already said, the tariff rate is only a standard for us to go by. For instance, we have to supply timber to the P. W. D., the Maramat, and other departments. We must have something to guide us in fixing the value. The tariff rate is only a standard. If any one wants timber, he can bid in our monthly auctions and the price he has to pay there will be regulated by the condition of the market, the quality of the timber and other factors. It sometimes goes down even to 50 or 60 per cent. of the tariff rates. If one wants good timber, of course he may have to pay more, and for this purpose, Travancore subjects have the right of purchasing the best timber available, by selection, at tariff rates.

PRESIDENT: You sell only in small lots at the depôts. Is it not so, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. According to the convenience of the purchasers, the timber is lotted and auctioned.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But we are not able to get them at reduced rates.

PRESIDENT: That is because you choose the best logs.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But there is the rule that the departmental authorities should not confirm the bid if it is below a certain rate.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no such rule, Sir. When the timber sells at 75 per cent. tariff rate and above, the Divisional Forest Officers confirm the sale. If the price goes below this percentage, the sales are confirmed by the Conservator of Forests. If Mr. Khadir Pillai would select the best timber, naturally he must pay the tariff rate.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): While the Conservator is prepared to reduce the rates for foreign firms, he is not prepared to do so in the case of Travancoreans.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter about which you have to negotiate with the Conservator. To that extent, the Forest Department is a mercantile department.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മൂവാററുപുഴ താലൂക്കിലെ കോതമംഗലം മുതലായ പകുതികളിൽ നിന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു കുത്തകകൊടുത്തു ശേഖരിച്ച തേക്കു തടികൾ ശേഖരിപ്പു ചിലവുകഴിച്ചു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു ക്യൂബിക്കടിക്ക് എന്തു വീതം കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്?

PRESIDENT: Please answer him in Malayalam.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): നാലണ മുതൽ ഒരു രൂപാ രണ്ടണാവരെ തരംപ്രകാരം കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനു കൂപ്പിക്കടി ഒന്നുകൾ കിട്ടിയലാഭം എന്തെന്നു പറയാമോ ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്ന തടികൾക്കു കോട്ടവില എട്ടണയാണ് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളത്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കോട്ടവില നീക്കി ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിന് എന്തുകിട്ടി എന്നാണ് അറിയേണ്ടത്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): മൂന്നാം ക്ലാസ് തടിയായിരുന്നാൽ ൪ അണയും, രണ്ടാം ക്ലാസ് തടിയായിരുന്നാൽ ൧൨ അണയും, ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസിന് ൧ രൂപാ ൨ അണയും കിട്ടും.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കോതമംഗലത്തു ജന്മിവക ദേശവഴിയിൽ നിന്ന് ഇറക്കിയ തടികളിൽനിന്നു കുത്തകക്കാരനും തടികൾക്കുനിന്നു സ്ഥല ഉടമസ്ഥനും കൊടുത്തതുനീക്കി ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിന് എന്തു ലാഭം ഉണ്ട്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കണക്കുനോക്കണം. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ സംഖ്യയിൽ പകുതിയായിരിക്കാം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ദേശവഴി ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിനു കിട്ടിയതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്കു സമ്മതിച്ച് അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നോ ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): റിക്കാർഡുകൾ അവിടെ കിട്ടിയതിനുശേഷം പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഒരുനാം പൂരിപ്പടിയോ അതും അത്രയും താരിപ്പു വിലയ്ക്കെടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു വാസ്തവമാണോ എന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഈ കാലത്തു തന്നെയാണോ ഗവൎമ്മെൻറിന് നഷ്ടം വന്നതു ?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): തേക്കുതടികൾക്കു ഡിപ്പോവിൽ വില്ക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ വില ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ കിട്ടും എന്നു ഗവർൺമെന്റിനു് അറിയാമോ ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കുടികളുടെ പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തടികൾ തരണമെന്നു കാണിച്ചു അപേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ ഗവർമെന്റിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുക്കാൻ തയാറുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അപേക്ഷകനു കുടിവിലയ്ക്കു അവകാശം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ, കച്ചവടത്തിനല്ലാതെ സ്വന്തം കെട്ടിടം പണിക്കായിരുന്നാൽ, പകുതി താരിപ്പുവിലയ്ക്കു തടികൾ മുറിച്ചു് അളന്നു കൊടുക്കും. കൊടുത്തിട്ടുമുണ്ടു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എത്ര കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കണക്കു നോക്കണം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupzha*): പകുതി അവകാശം ഇപ്പോഴും തടിയായിട്ടുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കുമോ? അങ്ങനെ ആർക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പകുതി താരിപ്പുവിലയ്ക്കു തടിയായിട്ടുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കും. ഈ ആഴ്ചയിൽതന്നെ രണ്ടു് അപേക്ഷകൾ സാൻക്ഷൻ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupzha*): ആർക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലേ പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അവരുടെ പേർ പറയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): എനിക്ക പേർ ഓർമ്മിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): നിങ്ങൾ മലയാറ്റൂർ ഡിവിഷണാപ്പീസരായിരുന്ന കാലത്തു തേക്ക തടികൾക്ക നിസ്സാരമായ സംഖ്യ വിറവു കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ നിന്നും ഒരംശം കൊടുകയെല്ലാതെ തടിയായിട്ടാർക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങനെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഒരാളുടെ പേർ പറയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ആലുവാ സമീപിച്ച് ഒരു നമ്പൂരിപ്പാട്ടിലെ അപേക്ഷ കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു പകുതി നിരക്കുവിലക്ക് തടികൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. വേറെ ആരും അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്ക് ഓർമ്മയില്ല. അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു നിശ്ചയമായും പറയാം.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. Raman Pillai suggested that the department would be realising better profit if it converted the timber into materials according to the demand of the market and sold them. I would request Mr. Mackie to cite his experience in this matter. Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield have a big saw mill at Quilon and they do business on a very large scale I am sure he will come forward with his experience and say whether it would be better to convert the timber into materials if they are to be sold. Mr. Raman Pillai also comes from Quilon and he knows how many saw mills were started there in recent years and how they have fared. Sawn materials are available for sale at Quilon now for 50 per cent. of the price at which we sold the timber in logs. Unless some private firms come forward and undertake the business, it would be inadvisable for the department to go in for expensive saw mills and Supply timber materials. We have had bitter experience in this matter when the department had a saw mill of its own.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether the Rs. 1 lakh provided is meant for working down timber in forest depôts or for extraction of fresh timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Last time I gave an assurance to the House that no more fresh timber would be extracted so long as we had a surplus stock. Accordingly, no fresh contract was given this year and only the old contracts are allowed to run out. We expected that our transaction with Messrs. Sabnis and Co. would clear our difficulties and that we would be in a position to commence further extraction. It remains to be seen whether they are going to continue the contract or not. What little fresh timber we have at present is expected to be sold out by the end of this year. Next

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

year we have to supply the Panivakai, Maramat and other timber-consuming departments; and unless we have fresh stock of timber, they are not likely to buy from us and they will naturally go in for timber from private merchants.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether in the years 1096 and 1097 these departments have been buying teak from private vendors.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is exactly what I say. If we are not in a position to supply timber they will go in for purchases from private markets.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know how private vendors are able to sell at a lower price than the Government.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have been dealing with the question of wholesale disposal of teak from lands taken up for rubber cultivation. Private gentlemen were selling wholesale the royal trees standing in their estates and they were in a position to undersell us and that was one of the reasons why the system of wholesale disposal had to be abolished.

PRESIDENT: I do not know if you have answered Mr. Raman Pillai's question, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wanted to know whether any portion of the budgeted amount of Rs. 1 lakh is meant for fresh extraction of timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Anticipating that we would be in a position to dispose of the whole timber to Messrs. Sabnis and Co., I first of all budgeted for an amount of Rs. 1,69,000. Afterwards, when I came to know that the company would not be in a position to pay for the whole timber this year, I allowed the Government to cut it down to Rs. 1 lakh. Thus a sum of Rs. 69,000 has already been reduced from the original provision I had made. This year we have to supply timber to other departments and therefore fresh extraction is necessary.

PRESIDENT: You say that the allotment is for fresh extraction of timber?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know what portion of the budgeted amount is meant for fresh extraction. Is it the whole of it?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It has been a fault with us to give short term contracts and the contractors were bound to supply timber within the period fixed. There was no means of restricting the supply. If the contractor failed to supply the agreed quantity, he had, according to his agreement, to pay a penalty for the deficit. So the contractors took care that they supplied all the

timber within the proper time, and we were bound to accept and pay for it. That system has worked very badly so far as we are concerned. I intend therefore to give long time contracts by which we can restrict the output of timber when our stock in the depôts cannot be sold. I do not think there would be any necessity for spending the whole amount if we are not able to sell the stock we have now. A portion of the allotment alone would be spent if it is found that the market is not improving.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether any portion of the money is meant for working down timber from the forest depôts.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The existing contracts will have to run through in addition to extraction of fresh timber and the timber from the forest depôts will also be worked down to the sale depôts.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know what proportion is spent for extraction from inside the reserves and what for extraction from outside the reserves, as regards the royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): So far as royal trees are concerned, the timber is usually extracted from outside the reserves, except flagstaffs and such other things as cannot be had in these areas and for which we have to go inside the reserves.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether these timber-consuming departments can purchase timber from private vendors without previous sanction from Government.

PRESIDENT: I think there is an interpellation in regard to that and the answer has been given. But it does not arise here. The Conservator cannot obviously answer that question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The natural mists in the forests are a great obstacle to the explorer but the mist of the ignorance of the actual condition of forest administration is a greater obstacle to the financier and the members of the Council. Mr. Raman Pillai has been pleased to observe that forest administration will improve because the present Conservator of Forests is a Travancorean. I associate myself with that sentiment; but I may observe that when we are dealing with forest revenue and expenditure, the idea of the nativity of the officer is immaterial; and hereafter we propose to view this question in a spirit of absolute detachment, so that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will continue to deserve our congratulations *only* if he shows very good work. I am glad that the Conservator has begun his work quite seriously. He is prepared to grant that there have been mistakes—mistakes about coupe sales, mistakes about spending more money on buildings than on communications, and mistakes in collecting unnecessary quantities of timber. I am quite sure that he will try to translate his intentions

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

into immediate action. But I must take this opportunity to observe that it is painful to see that while we have been agitating this question of forest mismanagement for dozens of years, Government have seen their way to accept our suggestions only recently In 1090, in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly I raised certain complaints about the nature of working plans, about coupe sales, and about want of proper communications in the forests, and I may also tell the House that my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai and others advanced elaborate arguments supported by facts and figures. It is a matter for satisfaction that the Government have accepted our point of view at least now. The wisdom of the popular representatives has after all had its effect upon the Government after repeated entreaties. During the course of the general discussion on the budget I had mentioned that the forests exist not merely for conservation but also for revenue. Sir, I happened to look into the report of the Indian Retrenchment Committee. It says:

"Having reviewed the expenditure on forests we recommend that the control of the Forest Department be vested in a manager who has commercial experience in timber industry".

I am quite aware of the fact that the present Conservator is an eminent scientist with experience both here and in the West, and I am not at all in favour of placing the department under the control of a merchant; but I hold that it is necessary that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai himself should acquire commercial knowledge along with the advance of his scientific knowledge.

In the report of the administration of the Forest Department, I find, on page 8, reference being made to the touring of the forest officers. It says:

"The review for 1096 had laid stress on the need for intensive forest inspection and the prevention of aimless touring. It does not appear that much has been done in this direction. The Conservator observed that touring depends mainly on road and railway facilities and that the volume and percentage of touring cannot be a correct test of the nature of the work done."

I view this sentence with grave concern. The kind of touring that I expect forest officers to do is not through localities flanked by railways, and places where there are magnificent roads. I am sure that is not the kind of touring work that the present Conservator was doing when he was a District Officer. How that matter was not able to draw the attention of the Conservator and of the Government, I cannot understand. The Government should point out to the Conservator and the Conservator should point out to the District Officers from time to time that touring work is to be done in the forestsand not in the plains. I am sorry to mention in this connection that the headquarters of some of the range officers are in the plains.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I ask Mr. Velu Pillai to read the further portion of the review?

MR. T K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My friend is not entitled to ask me to read it.

PRESIDENT: Probably, the latter portion may correct the former.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Then it must be in the form of a question. If he wants it, he might read it himself. But I have no objection to oblige him, as he is my old friend. (*Laughter.*)

"The Conservator is requested to closely watch the tours of the Divisional Officers and review their inspection diaries quarterly, forwarding copies thereof to Government for their information."

I think my argument continues to be right in spite of my reading the portion of the report as desired by Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai. Sir, there is one difficulty which the higher officers of the Forest Department feel in the matter of touring. After coming up to the topmost rung of the ladder—I do not mean any person in particular and certainly not Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai—they forget the actual conditions of the forest. They travel only in places where roads exist. Some years ago the Travancore Government allowed a Conservator of Forests to move about in the howdah of a caparisoned elephant. Sir, travelling in the howdah of a caparisoned elephant or by a coach and a pair or by a motor car done by a forest officer is not at all beneficial to forest revenue. I wish Government will make some kind of enquiry into this matter. We have been insisting that more money should be spent on roads and communications. It may be difficult, it may be expensive, but all the same, if during the last 50 or 60 years, Government had been assiduously working to increase means of communication in the various parts of the State we would have been getting steadily more substantial income than we now get and the extraction of timber from inside the forests would not have cost us as much as it does now. In the Administration Report of 1042 it is said as follows:

"The planting of teak trees in favoured localities is going on, and there are many thousands of plants in a thriving condition."

These trees have been planted some 56 years ago and I think they have attained the growth necessary for removal. I think the minimum period for their growth is only 40 years.

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that I have myself inspected those very trees some time ago and I think it would take a hundred years more for them to attain full growth.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Eighty years is the average period required for full growth.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I remember to have read in some book that forty years is the minimum period. Anyhow I have no objection to accept the opinion of the Conservator endorsed by the Dewan of Travancore.

I emphasise the fact that the forests should be worked on a commercial basis. I am sure the present Conservator will be earning

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

the gratitude of the future generations and certainly the approbation of the present Government if he would try to make a deviation from the present system and does his work not merely to conserve forests but to get a decent revenue also, so that we may utilise it for the material and moral prosperity of Travancore.

MR. K.C. MAMMEN MAPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there has been a great deal of misgiving in the minds of people that proper use is not made of the forest wealth of the country. There is some difficulty for people who are not conversant with the actual working of the Forest Department to understand the real situation. The information that we outsiders get will be a mixture of truth and falsehood distorted considerably—sometimes distorted by interested persons with some special objects. The operations of the Forest Department, as also those of private men engaged in business have been subject during the past few years, to certain grave difficulties which have affected the whole world and over which nobody had any control. Some time back a Bombay firm had the monopoly contract for our timber. I have heard that originally there was no market for our timber and that it was these contractors that tried to develop a market for it. Later on, it became exceedingly profitable for them and the Assembly was agitating very vigorously for the abolition of that contract. Accordingly, Government abolished that contract at the earliest opportunity. Government were then forced to adopt the policy of wholesale disposal by coupes and other means, but Government have sustained as much loss as any private individual would have by trying these various methods. But there is no doubt that, for some years past, forest revenue has been mismanaged; and we know, from the information that some of us have, that there have been avoidable losses and waste of forest revenue. Matters have been mismanaged because Conservator after Conservator has managed the department, each in his own way. When a wrong policy has been adumbrated, and, partly carried out, it will take some time before the mistake is found out; by then that Conservator disappears, and the next Conservator has to answer for the sins of his predecessor.

With regard to the sale of timber to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.—I have no direct or indirect connection with that Company—I am in a position to know some details. I know that this timber while rotting in our depôts for years was offered by the present Conservator when he was a D. F. O. to Mr. Namberumal Chetty for an advantageous price and he even received an advance from him.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I correct Mr. Mammen Mappillai? It was not offered by me, Sir. It was Mr. Namberumal Chetty that made the offer.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I beg your pardon. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai even received an advance from the Madras firm. But Mr. Raman Menon, the then

Conservator thought that it was a very unfavourable transaction for the Government, and therefore disallowed the contract. But, later on, it was found that this particular offer was exceedingly favourable to Government; and by that time Mr. Raman Menon had gone away. I do not want to speak disrespectfully of a deceased officer. But this is what actually took place, so far as my information goes.

As regards the agreement with Messrs. Sabnis and Co., many members of this House seem to be under the impression that the Conservator and the Government have been induced to accept very unfavourable terms for Government. I know as a matter of fact that much of the timber is of inferior quality, and had it not been for that contract we should not have been able to dispose of the greater part of the timber at any price.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the local agent of the firm is a relation of Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I think he is related to me by the seventh or the eighth remove. Same kind of relation can be traced out between several other persons (*Laughter.*) The circumstances under which the original offer was made by Sabnis and Co., and the rate at which the timber was afterwards sold to them can be easily ascertained by any member of the House and I do not fear any contradiction when I say that the rates are better by far than the timber is actually worth today. This view will be endorsed by all others who have any knowledge of the actual facts of the case. Wherever there is a big contract made there is always the suspicion that somehow the Government have been duped. But this particular timber contract has been—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether his relation and he had been to the Conservator's house to negotiate this contract.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): No; the Conservator and everybody concerned will testify that I never had at any time, directly or indirectly, done anything -

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. That is about the relevancy of the relationship and the friendship of the members of this House with anybody outside. The question before the House is the administration of the Forest Department with regard to a particular matter.

PRESIDENT: If you restrict the discussion to this particular head about which the discussion is taking place, I think the matter under discussion can be ruled out. But I do not think that is the spirit of the discussions that are being carried on here. As regards the questions put by Mr. M. N. Pillai, I cannot rule them out. Though they may be insinuating, no insinuating questions could be ruled out. The House can very well see through the insinuations.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am not asking particularly of Mr. M. N. Pillai's questions. Yesterday also I heard questions of that kind being asked. I think for the dignity of the House a ruling is necessary.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter more for the members than for the President. Your time is up, Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I have nothing more to say.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തടികൾ സമുദ്രതീരത്തോടടുത്തുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ മുഖാന്തരം ശേഖരിച്ചു വിററാൽ ശേഖരിപ്പു ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു പലപ്പോഴും പറയത്തക്ക സംഖ്യ ഒന്നും കിട്ടാതെയാണ് വരുന്നത്. താരിപ്പുവില എന്നൊന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതു നാട്ടുകാർ നാട്ടുംപുറങ്ങളിൽ വീട്ടുപണിക്കായും മററും ചില്ലറയായി വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അവിടെ ഡിപ്പോകളില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു സമുദ്രതീരത്തുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ നിന്നു തടി വാങ്ങി ആറുവഴി ഒഴുക്കിനെതിരായി തിരികെ മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവർക്കു വലിയ നഷ്ടവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ഇതിൽനിന്നു വിശേഷ ലാഭമൊന്നുമുണ്ടാകുന്നുമില്ല. തേക്കുതടികളെസംബന്ധിച്ചു പകുതി അവകാശം കുടികൾക്ക് ഉണ്ടെന്നു വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ആയതു തടിയായി കൊടുക്കാതെ താരിപ്പുവില ക്രമത്തിനു പകുതി വില സർക്കാരിനു കൊടുത്തുവാങ്ങേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതിനാലും ആ പകുതിവില ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ സാധാരണ തടി വിററുവരുന്ന നിരക്കിനുള്ള മുഴുവൻ വിലയ്ക്കു തുല്യമോ അധികമോ ആകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും പകുതി അവകാശം ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളത് വെറും നാമമാത്രമായിരിക്കുന്നേയുള്ളു. കുടികളുടെ വക മററു തടികൾക്കു ഫ്രീപ്പാസ് സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങൾ നിമിത്തം അവയും ശരിയായി ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ഭാരം വരാതെ രാജ്യകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പണം സംഭരിക്കുവാൻ ഉതകുന്നവകുപ്പുകളിൽ ഒന്നാണല്ലോ വനംവകുപ്പ്. വനത്തിലെ തടികൾക്കു കയററുമതി കുറവാകയാലും മററും വില തീരെ കുറവായിരിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു തടികൾ ചിലവുചെയ്തു ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ ശേഖരിച്ചാൽ കുറഞ്ഞ വിലയ്ക്കു വിററു നഷ്ടപ്പെടേണ്ടിവരും. വലി കൂടുന്ന കാലം വരെ മുറിക്കാതെ നിന്നാൽ തടികൾ വളരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട്

ആ വിധത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ വില കിട്ടാനിടയുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ തടികൾ ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Ma'e'ikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move for a closure.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I take it, Sir, that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai assures the House that this one lakh of rupees is absolutely necessary for exploiting fresh timber and for working down timber lying in the forest depôts. It is to meet the demands for 1099 according to his calculation that this amount and the other sums aggregating Rs. 60,000 have been made. I would only hope that when this money is spent out there would not be any timber in the socalled forest depôts which mean nothing; and on that assurance I beg permission to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 116 to 119.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not make the succeeding four motions of a like nature.

The following motions were not accordingly made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

116. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,45,000 for removal of junglewood from forests by Government agency by Rs. 45,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

117. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for removal of abandoned royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

118. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for removal of abandoned junglewood from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

119. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for removal of bamboos from forests by Government agency by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 120.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following:

120. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for the removal of minor produce from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has told us the other day that the possibilities in regard to the revenues under minor produce are practically *nil*. In fact, people think that much could be done in the matter of increasing our revenue by making the best of the minor produce available in the forests. This is more a matter of conjecture. I fail to see how he could have estimated that the income under minor produce will

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

come to about Rs. 15,000 in the coming year. We find from the budgets for the previous years, that in 1097 the income under this head was only Rs. 3,465 and the expenditure Rs. 848; while the budget estimate for 1098 shows that the expenditure is estimated to be Rs. 800 and the income Rs. 6,000. In the light of his observation to the effect that the cost of collection and consumption is beset with considerable difficulty and it is one of the handicaps for development—in the light of that observation I fail to see how he could have estimated the amount under minor produce to more than double of what is estimated to be derived in the year 1098. And I also find the expenditure has increased. The estimated expenditure is more than that of the revised estimate of 1098 by about 3 per cent. I therefore move this.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, there is every reason for Mr. Raman Pillai to raise this question. In the printed copy of the budget estimate, it has not been clearly stated why we require this sum of Rs. 4,000. We have a plantation of about 150 acres of rubber which we have not been tapping during the last two years on account of the fall in the price of rubber. It is proposed to tap this plantation during 1099, now that the price of rubber has slightly improved. We have also some 3,000 trees newly come to a condition to be tapped. I had provided originally Rs. 6,000 under this item, but it was reduced by Government to Rs. 4,000. I doubt very much if this amount will be sufficient, for under this item we have to incur some other expenditure also. We have to collect about 60 tons of *kodappala* oil and also undertake the departmental collection of minor forest produce in the High Ranges, where on account of the scarcity of labour no contractors can be had to take up the lease. Hillmen have to be engaged for this purpose and they have to be paid. This will consume between Rs. 300 and Rs. 400. Also we have to pay for 76 *paras* of honey to be supplied to the *Utsavamadam*. The House can see that, if we exclude these charges, the balance would hardly be sufficient to undertake the tapping in 150 acres of rubber plantation. We expect a revenue of Rs. 15,000 from all these sources; and compared with that an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 is nothing. When private rubber estates are worked, there is no reason why we should keep quiet—of course when the price of rubber goes down we will discontinue tapping. I hope my friend Mr. Raman Pillai will now be satisfied.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): How many articles of minor forest produce are you now extracting from these forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is a long list of 65 articles. Out of these, only a few are usually collected by contractors. A produce which is much sought after in one division is never cared for in another. The value of an article depends upon local demand. For instance, *incha* is largely collected from the

forests of the Central and Northern Divisions while the contractor cares more for his *chiyakka* and *kadukka* in the High Ranges. In the Northern Division again, *nux vomica* is an article of great value while nobody cares for it in the Southern Division. Instances like this can be multiplied. So, though our list of minor forest produce is a big one comprising some 65 articles, it is not possible for all the articles to be collected. Several of these articles will not pay the cost of collection and the contractor collects the article that pays him and not the rest.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, it has been explained why this provision was made.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 121.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

121. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,700 for the removal of timber and other produce from forests by consumers or purchasers by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 122.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I rise to move:—

122. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,800 for communications and buildings by Rs. 5.

In making this motion, my object is to draw the attention of the Conservator to the absolute necessity of laying down a steady and fixed policy in regard to the development of communications in the forests. As I have already observed, we find that the cost of extraction is increasing year after year and it is bound to increase as we begin to tap the resources of the inner forests. It is therefore of the highest importance that easy and cheaper means of communication must be provided for, in order to keep down the cost of extraction so that we may be able to compete with foreign timber. During the past fifteen or more years, I find that Mr. Rama Rao was the only Conservator who devoted anything like serious attention to this question. But, unfortunately, by the time he sent up any definite scheme on this matter, the war broke out and it was not possible for the Government to take any step in connection with the proposals he made; and since then, I regret to find that the succeeding Conservators did not press the matter sufficiently on the attention of Government and nothing definite has been done. We find that there are a few roads here and there; but they are all blind roads, six miles this side and twenty miles that side. They were opened and kept up for some particular purpose and subsequently neglected. Some of these roads are very costly also. For example, Shendurney coupe road extending about six miles has cost Government about a lakh of rupees particularly on account of the costly bridge that was put up to enable the traction engine to go over it. Much use is not made of that road now. Similarly other roads are opened and not properly maintained by the department. My submission is that all our reserves lie practically in

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

a block and it must be possible for the department to construct a main traffic road and from that to construct feeders so that the forests will be entirely opened. The feeders will serve as fire lines to protect the various blocks into which these feeders cut up the reserve and prevent fire from spreading from one place to another. And for that object I think a topographical survey of the forests is necessary. I think the British Indian Survey Department has done it, and I am not sure whether our department is in possession of a map of that plan. At any rate, it is necessary.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Every department has got maps of that survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): And then too much attention cannot be paid to the opening of foot-paths, bridle-paths and traces. Since Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has taken charge, I think some attention is being paid in the matter of training up the rivers. But, in the past, it was merely a question of depending upon the monsoon. If the monsoon breaks late, the timber comes late. If the monsoon breaks early, the timber might come early or late. Proper attention is not paid to the construction of rest houses and camp-sheds for the menial subordinates to stay and also for the officers to go and camp during the time of inspection and the impression gaining ground in the minds of people is that these officers seldom visit the inside of the forest unless they are compelled to do it by some other extraneous cause. Even in cases where guard stations are built, I find that they do not make use of these sheds with the result that they practically go to ruin. And in this connection, I should like the Conservator to let us have details about an incomplete building at Thorai. I was told that a camp-shed or guard station was estimated to be built at Thorai in the Achankoil Reserve and the basement of it is complete, but the construction of the basement was done by the Divisional Forest Officer who was at Koni independent of the range officer. And therefore the range officer has declined to put it up as the basement was not of the estimated depth and so forth. I think Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will let the House know how that matter stands. This being the condition of the buildings and communications, it is a sorry sight to see sums of money budgeted under this head being allowed to lapse at the end of the year. I submit, however, that an attempt should be made to spend all the money that is available, and it should also be the duty of the department to press for as large a sum as possible so as to spend it for improving the communications and buildings necessary for the department.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, with regard to the opening of roads inside the forests, I have pointed out, and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has also admitted, that it is a costly affair; and unless we are fully assured of the immediate necessity, it will not be advisable to spend more money. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai alluded to the road in the Shendurney Valley opened by Mr. Rama Rao. That road

has cost us Rs. 75,000 and we are using it for the last several years. There is no immediate necessity for us to extend this road or to go away from it. This road will serve us for a few years more. In about three years' time we may want another road in quite a different direction. For that purpose, careful investigation has to be made, and this work will be undertaken next year when men become available from the Forest College. Mr. Raman Pillai's suggestion to have a main trunk road with several feeders branching off from it is an ideal arrangement; but it will not be possible in our forests full of ridges and valleys. Such arrangement of roads is practicable only in plain forests of which we do not have much in our State. With regard to the opening of bridle-paths, I do not believe in these. They cost a big sum for opening and also we have to spend every year an equally big sum for their maintenance. Nobody cares to walk along them, because they are traced along the contour of the hills. It is not possible for us to ride or go in motor cars or on elephant's backs—as Mr. Velu Pillai said—in our forests. We always go walking and one that walks does not care to take the round-about path traced along the contour of the hills. In some forests, traces are necessary and we are maintaining such.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask the Conservator whether any investigation is being made regarding the construction of forest roads.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. We have undertaken the construction of a road in the Kottur Reserve in the Southern Division, another in the Quilon Division, and a third one in the Northern Division, besides some minor ones. Mr. Raman Pillai also referred to some guard stations built at Government cost and seldom occupied. I admit there are some guard stations of the kind described, built in out-of-the-way places away from habitations where it is not humanly possible to expect any man to remain. It was a mistake made in earlier times. At present, no guard stations are built in such places. In almost all cases they are built near villages so that the subordinates can live there.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai said something about a building at Thorai.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The case of that Forest rest house is something like that of the Arukutti excise office to which reference was made in this House. The foundation was constructed but it was found that the work done was not according to the estimate and specification and the matter is under enquiry. The work was provided for this year; but on account of the enquiry that has to be conducted, the work had to be stopped.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether it was not constructed directly by the Divisional Forest Officer instead of getting it done by the range officer.

PRESIDENT: The matter is under enquiry, so the Conservator says. Do you press this motion?

[Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not press it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 123.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I make the following motion:

123. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for surveys by Rs. 5.*

That again is, Sir, to draw the Conservator's attention to have the reserves correctly demarcated and to prepare correct plans and maps of the reserves. I do not believe correct maps are available for all the reserves of the State, and much less printed maps. On looking at the report of 1097 one finds that the short outturn of work is explained by the absence of a full-time officer and the removal from settled reserves. I submit that it is not a satisfactory explanation for not pushing on vigorously with the work of the survey of the reserves. In fact that is the first and the most important work that has to be done. Before we begin the work of surveying, we ought to know what area is to be conserved and where exactly the reserves lie before we begin to protect them. In fact, in spite of the existence of this department for the past so many years, it is quite regrettable to note that the survey has not been correctly plotted. Of all the departments of the State, I beg to submit greater attention has to be devoted by some of these surveyors of the Forest Department.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Here again there is another misconception. The boundaries of all our reserves are being surveyed by the Survey Department. This provision of Rs. 500 is made only for works to be done by the surveyors of the Forest Department. The Survey Department finished the survey of all reserves except about half a dozen reserves and some of the maps prepared were sent to us for verification. A few have already been sent back for being printed and the others are in process of verification. I may inform the member that the survey work, so far as the boundaries of our forests, are concerned, is almost complete except for half a dozen reserves.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are the printed maps available?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some printed maps are available and some are in course of printing, while others are being verified.

PRESIDENT: That work is being done by the Survey Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. That is done by the Survey Department. The provision made in the budget is only for the work to be done by the surveyors of this department. They have sometimes to survey enclosures inside reserves,

encroachments, plantations and coupes and other similar things. There are six divisions and the amount of Rs. 500 distributed among these divisions gives for each division only Rs. 80. This sum will be wanted to carry out the above works and certainly it is a small amount. We do not undertake extensive surveys. Such work is done by the Survey Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why do you make a survey at all?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A coupe has to be located; say, there is an encroachment, a boundary has to be refixed, a road has to be surveyed. For doing all those and similar works we want surveyors.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know why the range officers should not be asked to do it? They are all trained men.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): All our range officers are not trained men. After the abolition of the Forest College, there will be available a number of young men to do the work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if the range officer has time enough to make this survey.

PRESIDENT: But he does not know theodolite survey.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He may not be able to do theodolite survey.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In case the range officer is given a training in theodolite survey, will he have time enough to do that work?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A range officer ought to be able to attend to the survey work of his range. But in some ranges, the officers in charge may not have much time to do the work.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 124.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

124. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for working plans by Rs. 5.*

The House will know that in spite of the declaration made by the Conservator that the primary object of the Government in regard to forests is conservation and not revenue, scientific attention has not been given to it. We find that surveys have not been properly done and proper attention is not paid to the development of communications and we also find that the forests are not worked according to definite plans. What is worse than that—the working plans available are being deviated from without getting the sanction of Government. It is, I believe, one of the rules that, if a deviation is necessary, special sanction of

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Government has to be obtained. But without getting such sanction deviations are made; and during the past five or six years, we find that what are called preliminary workingplans or schemes have been made and forests are worked according to them. I interpellated Government to know whether Government have any idea as to what these working schemes are, and I find, from the answers given, that, for five years, the Government were kept in the dark by the Conservator as to what exactly these preliminary schemes were. My object in sending up this motion was to ascertain from Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether proper attention is being being given to the preparation of working plans and to know whether the department exploits reserves strictly in accordance with the provision of working plans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) ; Sir, we have working plans prepared for almost all the reserves taken up for exploitation. But those working plans were prepared some years ago when sufficient data were not available, when conditions were different and when the price of timber also was somewhat low. In some cases, it had become therefore necessary to deviate from the working plans to satisfy the requirements of the market and also the changed circumstances. Further, those working plans had been prepared without any idea as regards the time that would be taken for the exploitation of each coupe. To quote only one instance, in the Shendurney working plan, they have provided for the working of coupes to the extent of 3,000 acres, one year. From experience it has been found that it was impossible to work these coupes in one year and instead of one we wanted four and five years for each coupe. Necessarily deviations had to be made in such cases from the original plan, and for such deviations we have obtained Government sanction. I think Mr. Raman Pillai was referring to an instance, probably, in the Southern Division, for which Government sanction was not obtained. But that happened during the administration of my predecessor; and it was only a stray case.

Then with regard to the preliminary working plans, all those reserves which are to be taken up for exploitation in the near future are brought under these preliminary working plans and we have half a dozen of these already prepared.

PRESIDENT: You mean, independently of the detailed working plans?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 125

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion :—

125. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for protection from fire.

I find from the Administration Report that:

"Precautionary measures were taken as usual for protecting the forests from fire An area of 1 sq. mile and 263 acres was burnt down by forest fires against 1 sq. mile and 612 acres in 1096, 3 sq. miles and 66 acres in 1095, and 4 sq. miles and 160 acres in 1094. The fires in 1097 were not of a serious nature."

I submit that this does not represent the truth. Last year every inch of the reserve from Vidurai to the 24th milestone along the Trivandrum-Courtallam road was burnt down. And I know from personal experience that great portions of the Achankoil and Chaliakara reserves were also burnt down. I can assure the House that the returns sent to the Conservator by the range officers regarding the area protected from fire are often incorrect. They never go to the place, they never care to ascertain facts; neither are they given sufficient facilities to ascertain these matters. They are all based on conjectures and the returns are prepared from their offices and they are untrue. Unless a very serious and honest attempt is made on a systematic basis for protecting the forestf from fire, natural regeneration will be impossible and much of the timber will also be burnt down. I therefore say that, unless the Conservator is prepared to assure the House that he will have a systematic plan for protecting the forests from fire, this sum of Rs. 7,000 will be a sheer wastage.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the statement published in the Administration Report referred to by Mr. Raman Pillai is evidently based on reports received from the Divisional Officers. I admit there is some truth in what Mr. Raman Pillai said. But in a country where the undergrowth in the forest is all grassy and where the summer months are somewhat hot, it is not possible to place the forests under intensive fire protection. Here and there fire may occur and I think it has been a mistake on the part of the range officers not to have included those areas also. But the sum of Rs. 7,000 here provided is also for the clearing of reserve boundaries to serve as fire lines. Mr. Raman Pillai himself advocated the opening of cross roads to serve as fire lines. Last year he interpellated Government as to the steps taken to protect our forests from fire and I am sure the House will not grudge sanctioning this amount of Rs. 7,000.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether these fires are not to some extent due to the setting fire to forest growth by intending cultivators.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We do not allow cultivators to set fire because there is no cultivation inside reserves. But sometimes cases may occur where the forests may be set fire to for the purpose of obtaining pasture for cattle.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether guards do not unlawfully allow people to cultivate.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They do not. Unless we take up intensive fire protection which will be a very

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

costly undertaking, it may not be possible for me to give the assurance that the forests will be rigidly protected from fire. But whatever is possible will be done. It is too much to expect an assurance from me on this matter and that too in a forest where the undergrowth is grassy.

MR P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask the Conservator whether the work in connection with fire protection is checked by higher authorities?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The work is supervised by the Divisional Officers. They inspect the areas and satisfy themselves that the work is properly carried out.

PRESIDENT: They have to prepare an estimate and certify that the work has been done.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 126.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

126. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for other works.

My object is to ascertain from the Conservator what the 'other works' are. On looking through the Administration Report and other reports, I find that even there the works are not detailed.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, under this head come cultural operations, creeper-cutting, etc.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the first item, please?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Cultural operations. Last time Mr. Raman Pillai interpellated Government whether we were doing creeper-cutting and he also brought the matter once or twice to my attention personally. It is for the purpose of creeper-cutting and other operations that this amount is provided. I also pointed out in the answer that it was not possible to have creeper-cutting in all reserves, however much I would wish for it; it is only in reserves covered by working plans that we do creeper-cutting; and it is for this purpose that I want the sum of Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why do you do creeper-cutting?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): To prevent young trees from being strangled and killed by climbers twining round them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether mahogany plantation cannot be tried here.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I learn from the Administration Report of Ceylon that they are having mahogany plantation there. This year we are trying an acre at Arienkavu and Malayattur.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 127 to 134.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

127. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,380 for supernumerary manager.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

128. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for curator.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

129. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

130. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

131. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 250 for British postage and telegram charges by Rs. 150.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

132. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for secret service.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

133. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

134. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

Motion 135.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

135. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,884 for temporary establishment for conservancy and works.

My object is to know what these works are going to be and where the temporary establishment would be employed and other details connected with the expenditure under this item.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, under conservancy and works in the Forest budget, we include a lot of works which are necessary for the conservancy and exploitation of the forests. Under this one item of temporary establishment are included watchers employed in depôts and plantations, surveyors and lascars, and also watchers employed temporarily for the protection of forests, especially where there are inroads from smugglers and other people. This item includes 35 watchers and 5 special watchers for depôts, 23 watchers and 3 special watchers for watch stations, 3 surveyors and 6 lascars

[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

and 8 forest watchers in the Anjanad Range for the protection of sandal-wood, and 3 watchers on the Panakudi side where there has been so much of smuggling and pilfering by the British Indian villagers.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are the watchers and other men not permanently required?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They are permanently required, but they are not borne on the permanent establishment.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Why not?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will entail additional cost. Permanent staff would be pensionable while temporary staff is not.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): An experiment was tried for planting *casuarina* trees for fuel. Are similar experiments bound to succeed?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That was an experiment which was tried some 25 years ago and that has ended in colossal failure. We spent something like Rs. 25,000 at Veli and Tonnakkal and the present value of the plantation is not even so much as was spent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*). I wish to know if an investigation is being made regarding the question of providing fuel for the towns.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have at present a large area of land available for registry; we remove the tree growth and that comes to the town in the form of fuel.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am not referring to the present conditions. I look more to the future as well. (*Laughter.*) Has anything been done for the future?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That was a subject which was discussed in the Economic Development Board. The conclusion we arrived at was that artificial fuel plantation would not pay in a country like ours, where there is so much of fuel available from different sources, and that it would be inadvisable for Government to launch themselves in schemes of extensive artificial plantations for fuel alone, and if at any time scarcity is felt, fuel can be brought to the towns by railway, by boats or by running lorries. Artificial fuel plantation will be very costly; and if I am consulted, I will not advise it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 136.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

136. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,000 for travelling allowance of executive and protective staff by Rs. 5,000.

A glance at the budget before us will show that it is becoming a practice to the officers to increase this item year by year. In 1097, the expenditure on it was Rs. 13,404. In 1098, it was raised to Rs. 14,000. And now the Conservator demands Rs. 17,000. If this item of expenditure is increased by leaps and bounds, I think there will be nothing left by way of income. So I request for a cut of Rs. 5,000.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, The amount provided here is for the grant of permanent travelling allowance to the protective and executive staff. They are, under the service rules, eligible to get a certain amount monthly. There are 27 Rangers, 23 Deputy Rangers, 62 Foresters, and each of these officers has to be paid monthly a fixed travelling allowance. It will be found by calculation that even this provision of Rs. 17,000 is not quite enough to pay their legitimate dues. These officers will also have to be given travelling allowance when they are transferred from place to place. Last year we provided Rs. 17,000, but it was cut down to Rs. 14,000. It is not known whether the grant has been found sufficient for the current year. As some of the members of the protective staff were deputed for study in the Forest College where their permanant travelling allowance has been included in their stipends, it is hoped that the amount has been sufficient. The amount provided in the budget for next year is barely sufficient to pay their permanent travelling allowance under the rules.

PRESIDENT: It is the actual amount necessary for the payment of the permanent travelling allowance under the rules.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has the staff been increased?

PRESIDENT: Some thirty of them are in the college and they do not draw any travelling allowance now. That is what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai says.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 137 and 138.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

137. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

138. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 139.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to make the following motion:—

139. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,28,891 for establishment by Rs. 100.

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to certain aspects of forest administration some of which have already been referred to by previous speakers under other heads. Nevertheless I shall summarise the points that I want Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai's attention to be drawn to. The first is the increasing expenditure that the department is incurring. I find that in 1084, from which year we seem to have complete statistics, the expenditure on establishment was Rs. 1,33,919. The expenditure for the coming year has been budgeted at Rs. 2,59,800. So far as acreage goes, there is no appreciable difference. In 1084, the area of reserved forests was 2,325 square miles; in 1098 it is 2,387 square miles. The net revenue derivable too does not show any appreciable difference.

PRESIDENT: Any figures for net revenue?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall be glad to give. The net revenue in 1084 appears to be Rs. 2,63,169. In 1099 the net revenue expected, is about Rs. 4 lakhs. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai was telling us on the last occasion that from the Travancore forests we are not justified in expecting anything more than Rs. 12 lakhs. The budgeted expenditure comes to about Rs. 8 lakhs and odd, so that the net revenue comes to less than Rs. 4 lakhs. Here then is an expenditure of Rs. 2,59,800 to secure a net revenue of less than Rs. 4 lakhs. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai was telling us again that the proper duty of the department was sylviculture and conservation. I find that in respect of sylviculture only Rs. 28,000 has been asked for in the budget for the coming year. As for conservation, the establishment seems to be more for the exploitation of timber from outside the reserve than for the conservation of the reserve itself. I would therefore suggest that the Forest Department might very well withdraw their operations into the reserves. When the royal trees outside the reserve are assigned away to private holders, a recurring expenditure of not less than half a lakh might be provided for. In this way, more than half of what is now spent might be saved. Therefore my first proposition is that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai should look into the question of assigning away outside rights as also of assigning isolated bits of waste land which are of little use to the Forest Department.

The second point I wish to draw the attention of the Conservator to is the travelling allowance which now comes to a pretty high figure consequent on the fact that the headquarters of the Divisional Officers are very far removed from the centres of their work. For example, I would refer to Kottayam. The nearest place where the Divisional Forest Officer might have any work to do is at least ten miles from the office; it may be thirty miles even. If the centre is shifted to somewhere near the reserve, it might save a considerable amount of travelling allowance to the Government.

The third point is that out of the six divisions now existing, one may be absorbed; for example, the Shencottah Division may be absorbed easily into the Quilon Division. The area of the Shencottah Division and the Quilon Division comes to a total of 394 sq. miles, or including reserve and grazing lands, a little over 400 sq. miles. If it has been found possible to absorb the High Range Division having an area of 623 square miles into the Kottayam Division, it would be easy to amalgamate the Quilon and Shencottah Divisions. The means of communication there are very easy. The Shencottah Division did not exist as a separate division before 1089.

The next point to which I wish to call the attention of the House is the fact that, since the days of Conservator Mr. Rama Rao, Government have been insisting on the necessity for a proper general working plan in successive administration reports. Every year, we find Government expressing regret and asking the department to speed up the preparation and submission of these plans.

The next thing I wish to refer to is the necessity for a trade agency. The Conservator has to confine his attention to the scientific portion of forest administration, to sylviculture and conservation. Trade is entirely different and it requires experts. It may be better for us to create a Board of Trade or to secure some sort of a commercial agency, not being a Government department, or to secure a firm to do the marketing portion of the business for us, to find out the best species and the best sort that has a demand and to give business advice and to secure contracts for the department.

The next head to which I would refer is the paucity of experiments in utilisation. We find a Utilisation Officer has been provided for; but we do not find anything appreciable as achieved or discovered by that officer. For example, in the case of *kodappala* oil, if the discovery is properly worked out, it will be a source of income for Travancore forests. In regard to that, nothing seems to have been done. Proper attention has never been paid and no experiment has been conducted to develop our minor produce.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the subject of *kudivila* referred to by Mr. Kumara Pillai. There are at present applications, several years old, still pending undisposed of. It may be that the department is not earnest about it or it may be due to the general slackness characteristic of other departments. The responsibility of these applications lying idle for the past tewlve years has to be fixed From the Kottayam Division alone, I believe, something like Rs. 1 lakh is due to private people on account of *kudivila*. It is very difficult for the ordinary man in the street to secure redress. I find that though there is provision of Rs. 30,000 this year; last year, the amount was Rs. 10,000 only. However, what little Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has been doing is consoling.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the member referred to the increased expenditure on the Forest Department and was also comparing the figures for 1084 and 1098. During this

[Mr. R. Danukoti Pillai.]

interval, the department underwent reorganisation twice by which the pay of the staff has been increased in consonance with the reorganisations effected in other departments. So, there is nothing surprising in the fact that the expenditure rose from Rs. 1½ lakhs to Rs. 2½ lakhs within this period of 14 years. We retrenched as far as possible during the last reorganisation and reduced one Deputy Conservator, three Assistant Conservators, one Ranger, one Manager and three clerks in the subordinate offices—38 employees of all classes. It will thus be seen that there has been considerable retrenchment effected.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar also alluded to the excess expenditure that has been incurred on account of T. A. in some divisions. He specifically referred to the Kottayam Division, the amount allotted to which office was about Rs. 1,200. The amount has been increased of late to Rs. 1,600. On account of the amalgamation of the High Range Division with it and, knowing as I do the travelling to be done by the Divisional Officer, I do not think it is in any way excessive. It is not quite clear as to where Mr. Krishna Aiyar wants the Divisional Forest office to be located.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether a saving could not be effected if the Division is shifted to Manimala?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will involve a lot of initial expenditure. We may have to provide quarters for the officer and the clerks. There is no building for holding the office either.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I believe there is the range office.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is too small for the purpose. The Ranger himself finds it difficult to use it, and it is not desirable to incur a large expenditure on buildings in such an out-of-the-way place. We may save some amount under T. A.; but the change in headquarters means large outlay on new buildings. Mr. Krishna Aiyar also referred to the desirability of amalgamating some Forest Divisions. The Salaries Committee recommended a reduction of one division and it was found on examination that it was easier to bifurcate the High Range Division than to amalgamate the Quilon Division with the Shencottah Division. If both the Quilon and Shencottah Divisions are amalgamated, one officer will have to be made responsible for nearly one-half of the revenue of the department. That, I submit, will be throwing too much of responsibility on him, which will not be advisable.

Then he also suggested the employment of a trade agency. It was tried once during the time of Mr. Rama Rao, but ended in failure. A private gentleman was appointed as commission agent and he was asked to canvass orders. But what happened was this. He went to Calcutta

and Bombay and other places and wired to the Divisional Forest Officers that he had booked orders and asked them not to sell timber in auctions. The Divisional Forest Officers postponed the sales and nothing came out later. This was repeated once or twice and ultimately he was thanked and sent away.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I ask whether the failure was due to any defect in the principle or to the selection of a wrong individual? Suppose we appoint a responsible firm like Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., Quilon, as agents.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter of having a trade agent is engaging the attention of Government. It has not been decided whether we should employ a private individual or a firm for the purpose.

Reference was also made to the work of the Utilisation Officer and the work done by him. Unfortunately, I was the Forest Utilisation Officer. I do not know what was meant. I do not know whether it is implied that I did no work. I may tell the House that, during the short time I was so employed, I did whatever was possible. It was as a result of my work and the investigation conducted by me that Mr. Cox has come forward with his proposal to use *eeta* for manufacturing matches by which we are assured of a minimum revenue of Rs. 10,000 annually for ten years with prospect of further increase amounting to several thousands later. It is also the intention of Government to continue the Forest Utilisation work and an allotment has been made for this purpose in the budget for next year.

Sir, *kodappala* oil is a disintegration product of the tree *Hardwickia Pinnata*. It is found only in certain trees and not in all. It is not like rubber which can be obtained by tapping all trees. If we bore holes in a dozen trees, one or two alone will give the oil. The total quantity of oil that can be collected every year is about 60 tins, and even for this quantity a large number of trees have to be bored. Mr. Sitarama Aiyar of the local College made some investigation in regard to its possiblity and uses, but the quantity to be obtained every year is so small that no commercial development is possible. Further, *kodappala* trees are found only in the Shendurney valley and the quantity that can be obtained annually is so small.

In regard to *kudivila*, it is true that several dues have to be paid. But the settlement of the claims involves a series of investigations which take a long time and the matter is not so simple as it would seem at first sight. Since the defalcation case at Kottayam, where an amount of Rs. 10,000 had been swindled from the Government, every one of our officers—I candidly admit—including myself is afraid of passing bills until he is perfectly convinced of the legitimacy of the claim. I may, however, inform the House that we were able to disburse an amount of Rs. 20,000 this year by diverting funds from other sources, though only Rs. 10,000 was provided in the budget. I hope we will be able to settle more claims in the coming year for which I have provided Rs. 35,000 in this budget.

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikkara* cum *Karthikapalli*): What does the Coservator say in regard to exploitation from unreserves or private holdings?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter is under reference to the Free Pass Rules Committee.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): To-day's sitting seems to be a calm after the storm. Probably it is in keeping with the weather, not because this side of the House cannot see the wood for the trees, but because of the lucid treatment of the subject by the mover and the clear, straightforward replies given to every question by the Conservator of Forests. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai seems to have taken a good deal of pains in studying the whole of the Forest administration, being an old student of the Dehra Dun College. (*Laughter.*) I am very glad to say that he is still attached to his old love in spite of his legal connection. I am very glad to say that every motion which has been brought by him, as well as the other two, has been carried *nem. con.* (*Laughter*), I mean, withdrawn (*Laughter*), without any sort of trouble. It speaks volumes for the cut and dry way in which the Conservator answered every question to the full satisfaction of this House. I should have wished him to speak a little louder.

I quite agree with Mr. Krishna Aiyar in thinking that there are too many divisions and that they can be reduced. I also agree with him that the headquarters of the Divisional Forest Officers should be as close as possible to the forests. That will not only save T. A; but the officers also will be in touch with the forests and their working. I do not mean to say that their offices should be in malarial places. I also agree with Mr. Krishna Aiyar that there has not been a general working plan of the forest which is very very important. There has been no continuity of policy in the working of the Forest Department. One Conservator does some work and another comes to undo it. What is wanted is a proper general plan and policy. The present Conservator is a son of the soil, a young and energetic officer who seems to have a thorough understanding of the whole of the forest administration and it is fortunate that we have Mr. Raghaviah.

PRESIDENT: Your referring to the President of the Council by name is not in order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: (*Nominated*): I think a new chapter has been opened, and I hope that things will be done as they ought to be done in future.

MR S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 140 and 141.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

140. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,28,891 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

141. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for office expenses and miscellaneous.

Motion 142.

MR N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir I beg to move the following motion:—

142. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7·83 lakhs under demand IV by Rs. 100.

In moving for the reduction, I wish to point out one or two facts over and above what has been brought to the notice of the Council. The revenue from forests is year by year going down. Whatever may be the basic principle upon which the Forest Department is to be worked, whether financially or scientifically, I am inclined to think that it is possible to work the department in such a manner as to make it yield greater revenue without doing much of injury to our forests. A major portion or a good portion of the forest revenue in Mysore is seen to be derived from one commodity, *i. e.*, sandalwood. I wish to enquire what the Forest Department here, which has been in existence for over seventy years has done in this matter. The Administration Report for 1086 says:

"Ever since Mr. Rama Rao. took charge of the department, he has been paying particular attention to the propagation of sandal. The results of theexperiment so far made go to show that this valuable species would thrive well in Travancore."

So our soil is very congenial to the cultivation of sandalwood; and inasmuch as that material can yield a good portion of the revenue of the State, I wish to know what our Forest Department has done in the matter, and why we are not able to get a good revenue from sandalwood.

Another matter that I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is the question of the revenue from minor forest produce. I am not satisfied, even after hearing Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, that it is not possible to get more revenue under that head from forests. The views expressed by some of our previous Conservators of Forests, I mean Messrs. Bourdillon and Rama Rao, have made us believe that it is possible to get a very large revenue from our forests under the head of minor produce. Personally speaking, I am not convinced that the Forest Department is exploiting all its resources under this head. Going through some of the administration reports of the State, I find that, in the year 1074, the Government drew the attention of the department to this matter. The Government said that the Conservator should submit a special report showing the nature and extent of the existing reserves and the best means of exploiting them. Of course, next year, the Conservator said that there were over 40 or 50 articles of minor produce in the various

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

forests to collect, to which he devoted special attention. And the two next years showed some increase in the forest revenue under this head. I bring this matter to the notice of the House over again, even after the assertion of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai that it is not possible to get much revenue. I am at any rate not satisfied with this assurance.

The next point that has been raised by Mr. Krishna Aiyar is with regard to the increase of expenditure on the Forest Department, which is out of all proportion to the revenue. A good portion of the expenditure is seen to be incurred on account of the working of timber from the source to the trade ports; and all I can say is that a major portion of this sum—I mean the expenses incurred for working down timber from the sources to the depôts—is handled by the lower subordinates. I need not state that there is much scope for wastage in that direction. A few years ago, Sir, in the Assembly, I brought to the notice of the department as well as the Government the fact that it is possible to avoid this waste by the introduction of the tramway system in the forests. We see that the method that is now adopted for bringing down timber from the source to the depôts is a very ancient method which existed several years ago. They are merely depending upon the rainy season. I submit that by having resort to some other better and more modern method a good deal of expenditure could be reduced and it is high time for the Government to consider this question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know from Mr. Padmanabha Pillai whether the tramway in Cochin is being worked successfully.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): If it is not, it is probably because the area of forests in Cochin is only one-fifth of ours. Without sufficient material they went on. That was the explanation given by Mr. Rama Rao. There is no comparison between the Cochin forests and the Travancore forests. We have a considerably larger area of forests in this State. It is only a bit less than the forest area in Mysore. We are not to take lessons from Cochin, inasmuch as our resources are greater. In view of these facts, I submit that this matter has to be determined after mature consideration. I wish to know, before I conclude, whether there has been any investigation in this matter. Anyhow, my point is that it is time to consider whether it is possible to adopt some better method of working down timber from the sources to the depôts than the present method.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): While thanking my friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai for giving me an opportunity to explain certain erroneous impressions current among the public, I have to say that some of the things mentioned by him are not possible of execution. For instance, he referred to the enormous revenue which the Mysore Government are obtaining from sandalwood. Sir, andalwood cannot grow everywhere. Mysore is the natural habitat

for sandal; and if we except a few districts of the Madras Presidency, the world gets its supply of sandalwood almost wholly from Mysore. Mr. Rama Rao introduced sandal here in the plains experimentally, but the result cannot be said to be much of a success. It grows well but the wood is not much scented and in some cases it is almost devoid of scent. However, we are continuing the experiment and it is being introduced whereever possible. Government issued a circular to all heads of departments some years ago to plant sandalwood in all Government lands and in the compounds of offices, but I have to admit that the response was not very encouraging except in the case of the P. W. D. The only place in Travancore where sandal grows well and propagates itself naturally is Anjanad and I may assure the House that whatever is possible is being done here to increase its propagation. We propose to bring under reservation further area in this locality, and proposal for the reservation of about 5,000 acres has already been submitted to the Government. It is also under contemplation to reserve the whole valley of the Pamba river to promote the natural spreading of the species.

With regard to minor forest produce, I am sorry my explanation has not convinced Mr. Padmanabha Pillai. He referred to the increase of revenue from this source during certain years and to its fall later. During the war, when there was great scarcity for tanning materials and when Government had to take these articles under control, there arose a keen demand for such stuff and we decided then to auction our minor forest produce group—war so that any one who wanted tanning materials, might bid for those articles alone and not for all the rest. We realised then exceptionally good sums for these articles in our auctions and evidentally the increase of revenue referred to by my friend relates to this period. With the cessation of the war, the control was abolished, the price of tanning materials went down, and in later auctions we could not secure even a single contractor to bid. In course of time, we also found that the auctioning of the minor forest produce groupe-war was not advantageous to the Government. For instance, in some Divisions, only one or two products were much sought after and when these articles were auctioned separately, there were no bidders for the rest.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the department advertised the collection of minor forest produce in any papers—Indian Papers or outside papers?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The auction sales are notified in the Travancore Gazette; and every issue of the Gazette contains such advertisements.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What has become of the camphor that was introduced from Japan?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The trees exist but are not doing well. In this connection, I may be permitted to say something personal. My old professor, Sir William Schlich, who

[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

was the Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India for several years and whose knowledge of the conditions of forests both in and outside India is indeed colossal, has advised us not to commit the mistake of introducing exotics but to devote our attention to the cultivation of indigenous trees. As regards camphor it was a failure. We have a few trees at Arienkavu and I have seen a small plantation of it in the High Ranges. The very appearance of the trees will show how unsuited they are for our climate.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is he aware that tapioca is an exotic plant?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have heard it said so. The Director of Agriculture is a more competent authority to say whether it is an exotic or not.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has he not heard of the fact that certain exotic plants thrive well in the soil here, in spite of the advice given to him by his professor?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is considerable difference between forest trees and agricultural plants.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What about rubber?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): And South America?

PRESIDENT: He is explaining the difference between agricultural plants and forest trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In the case of an agricultural plant, any mistake committed in its introduction can be seen in a short period say in two or three years, but not so in the case of forest trees. Here one has to wait for several years—probably 50 or 60 years—before the mistake can be found out and all the labour and money expended will then be a waste.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the camphor trees once planted and subsequently abandoned were ever tapped?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They are not fit for the extraction of camphor.

PRESIDENT: I have seen them in the High Ranges at Mattupatti.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Another point referred to by Mr. Padmanabha Pillai was that there was no check in the expenditure of money and it was handled by lower subordinates.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am not able to follow what he says.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This is a serious charge indeed. But I may inform the House that in the Forest Department money is never handled by the lower subordinates. The Divisional Forest Officers inspect works, and check and scrutinise accounts and vouchers and then only is money disbursed. In regard to timber extraction the work is done by contract agency and payments are made direct to contractors and no lower subordinates come between. I do not know what Mr. Padmanabha Pillai really means.

As regards the introduction of tramway in the forests to facilitate extraction of timber, I would say that, so far as our forest is concerned, I would prefer the old method of extraction by elephants and carts to tramways, and other costly means of exploitation. We have already given one method a trial and it has been found to be a failure in our country.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether the object of the Forest Department is merely conservancy of the forests or to make revenue and whether we want such a large area as 2,000 sq. miles?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): All the 2,000 and odd square miles of the reserve forests do not contain tree growth. We want only forests and not grass land. Whatever area that is not wanted for the supply of timber and for climatic and other reasons can be made available for other purposes.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the area that is actually required as per the views of the Conservator of Forests?

PRESIDENT: He may not be able to answer off-hand.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As for tramways, I am sure it will not also pay in our forests. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai stated that the failure of the Cochin tramway might have been due to the poverty of the forests. It is not so. The Parambikulam forest, to exploit which the tramway was opened in Cochin, was far richer than any of our forests and still the tramway proved a failure. To open a tramway in a hilly country like ours will be very costly and unless we have sufficient timber to be brought down along it throughout the year it can never be made to pay. For this purpose we would want at least a thousand acres of forest to be clear-felled every year and I do not think the House will permit such expenditure of money and denudation of the forest

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): It is a mistake to open a tramway right up to the depôts. We do not want a tramway like the Cochin one. Sufficient if we have one within the forests to work out the timber. When the timber gets to the forest depôts, it can be brought down by river, the cheapest possible form of transport. Mr. Rama Rao was in favour of such tramways—he considered them essential if the forests were to be properly exploited.

PRESIDENT: You think a tramway is cheap.

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Yes, very cheap.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): In connection with the administration of the forests, I want to bring this to the notice of the Conservator as well as the Government. The Conservator knows well that smuggling of timber from the reserved area of Manjapra and the neighbouring reserves is still going on, rather on a large scale, in spite of the great vigilance of the forest officers, and I believe it will continue until we have some timber depôts near by from which people can buy their timber for ordinary purposes. As Mr. Kunjitomman remarked, we have no timber depôts in Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha, in the up-country, from where the people can buy timber. As it is, they have to go for timber to the water-depôts at Verapuzha and Vetticad and buy timber, bring it back again, working against the current. Of course, people do not like this. Hence, they have recourse to smugglers. By this, smuggling is encouraged. To put a stop to smuggling, the Conservator must see his way to open some depôts in these parts from where people can buy timber easily.

PRESIDENT: The two hours and a half allotted for the discussion of the motions in respect of this demand have run out. I therefore put to demand the vote of the House. The question is that a sum of Rs. 7·83 lakhs be granted for Demand IV—Forest.

The grant was made.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-10 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

DEMAND V.—STAMPS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·88 lakh under Demand V—Stamps.

Motions 143 to 146

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

143. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

144. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1000 for purchase and repair of machinery.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

145. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

146. To omit the allotment of Rs. 36 for hot weather charges.

Motion 147.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to make the following motion:—

147. To omit the allotment of Rs. 36 for hot weather charges.

I make this motion in order to understand why the framer of the budget is partial to certain departments. With regard to this item of hot weather charges, certain departments are not allowed hot weather charges such as Registration and Forest. But some other small departments are allowed hot weather charges. They are intended for punka-pulling and water-carrying. These are necessary for other departments also. Just to understand why this partiality has been shown to some departments, I have made this motion.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The sum of Rs. 36 is the cost of punka-pulling for six months.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Cannot a peon do that work as is done in other departments?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In no other department is the peon doing it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): They do it in the Sessions Court.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The peons are for doing office work. They are only two in number. One of them cannot be set apart for pulling the punka.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I wanted to know why this partiality was shown to some departments.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In most departments it is allowed.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Not in all.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Some departments might not have been given because they did not ask for it. Some might not require it. Some might be touring departments and hence they might not have felt the need for it

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether cold weather charges are not granted to all departments.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Cold weather charges are not given in the plains. They are given only in the High Ranges, for lighting fire on cold nights.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The Revenue Survey party is given hot and cold weather charges.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is only the name of the head of the account.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Madhava Variar?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): No.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Motion 148.

The following motion was not made*:—

148. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 400.

Motion 149.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I beg to move the following:

149. To reduce the allotment of Rs. '88 lakhs by Rs. 100, under Demand V.

Sir, I move to reduce the total allotment of Rs. '88 lakh under Demand V by Rs. 100. My object in making this motion is to get a statement from Government about the necessity for the introduction and retention of service stamps in the State. I think these service stamps can with advantage be done away with.

To my mind there is not much of necessity for the service stamps. We were doing without them till 1087. In that year the introduction of service stamps coincided with an attempt at the re-organisation of the Anchal Department. That proves that they were introduced to show increase of revenue in the Anchal Department and in order to justify its re-organisation. About a fourth of the stamps, covers and cards annually manufactured are found to be service ones. It is difficult to know the actual expenditure incurred in the manufacture of Anchal stamps, cards and covers. The figures given are misleading. On page 38 of the Administration Report for the year 1097, it is stated that, of the gross expenditure on stamps during the year, a sum of Rs. 32,952 was debited to the Anchal Department as its proportionate share. But on page 80 of the same report it is stated that the manufacture of Anchal cards, covers and stamps cost Rs. 80,345. These statements appear to be inconsistent. However, accepting the latter figure, Rs. 80,345, to be the actual expenditure for the manufacture of Anchal stamps, covers, and cards, a fourth of that sum, *i. e.*, about Rs. 20,000, can be taken to be the annual expenditure incurred in the manufacture of service stamps. I think this expenditure might well be avoided.

There is besides another reason that must prompt the abolition of service stamps. It is one of the means now availed of to show inflated revenue. Service stamps are, I understand, annually indented for and supplied to the several departments of the State in very much larger quantities than are actually required for the legitimate use of these departments. I think that that also is not quite desirable.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to support Mr. Padmanabha Pillai; but I beg to raise another point. On page 50 of the budget estimate I find that the Superintendent's salary is Rs. 225 and that personal allowance at the rate of Rs. 50 per mensem had also been provided for. I may tell the House, Sir, that I have nothing against the Superintendent personally. For aught I know,

he must be a competent officer. He was sent there from the P. W. D because the Managership was abolished. We have made several objections to this principle of giving personal allowance to people. Suitable men should be appointed in vacancies; men of high salaries should not be appointed in low appointments. I think we shall not be justified in spending such a large amount of money on the Superintendent for stamp manufacturing, simply because the officer happens to be a senior officer. Therefore Sir, this arrangement ought to be abandoned and proper men should be put in proper places. The persons getting high salaries should not be put in lower appointments. That is the point in issue.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am also of opinion that if we can make a gain of Rs. 20,000, the system of service stamps might be avoided.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures separately for Sercvice stamps. Just now I find that the entire cost of printing Anchal stamps and service stamps and cards and the manufacture of envelopes came only to Rs. 30,760 in 1098.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai referred to Rs. 80,000 and odd. I would request him to quote the page.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Page 80 of the Administration Report for 1097, second line.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Evidently that is wrong. That is the statement made by Anchal Superintendent. I am not responsible for that. The actual cost will be found in the last column of the Stamp budget, on the expenditure side. There is only a sum of Rs. 32,292.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It is only on this account I said that the figures are inconsistent.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It may be a printer's mistake. The amount adjusted by the Government against the Anchal Department is Rs. 32,952 and it does not show the total cost of manufacture. It is only the price of stamps purchased from the Anchal Department. The actual costs amount to Bh. Rs. 3,130.

That is the revised estimate that the Superintendent has given. The portion for service Anchal stamps cannot be much.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the proportion?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not in a position to give the proportion.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I would draw the attention of Mr. George to the figures on page 37 of the report.

"*Service Anchal Stamps and Cards* 28,18,000."

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That will not be the figure for the Service Anchal stamps alone. That includes the whole cost of purchase and manufacture of Sirkar stamps, cards and covers.

[President.]

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to know what is the possible expenditure on the service stamps annually, excluding the price of the material.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The total receipts under the sale proceeds of Anchal cards and stamps is Bh. Rs. 60,000 and service stamps Rs. 95,000. With some preparation, we can even get very accurate figures from the Superintendent. I think the existence of these stamps is more to the advantage of the public. These stamps cannot be used for any other purpose. It may be very dangerous if other stamps are used.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to know whether it is absolutely necessary to use any stamps at all.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I think the Anchal Department can legitimately claim the credit for carrying the various letters and parcels on behalf of the Government. That is the practice everywhere.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is the Government Press given credit for printing Government papers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is not a commercial department. Their work is part of administrative work.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to know whether there is any other way. I wish to ascertain the value of the stamps that ought to be allowed. We see from the report that even before the introduction of these stamps certain amounts were credited to the Anchal Department.

PRESIDENT: What is the saving expected by abolishinging these service stamps?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*)(*Deputy President*): We can save the cost of stationery and printing.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That may give rise to abuses and malpractices.

PRESIDENT: If communications are not stamped, a risk always exists. If they are stamped, there is the guarantee that they are Government communications. Many letters that are not Government letters might also be sent. There is that risk.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can we not use rubber stamps for the purpose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Any one can make rubber stamps.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will it not do if these are stamped by a responsible officer?

PRESIDENT: It requires a responsible officer.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For this purpose the clerk must be considered to be a responsible officer. Somebody must be responsibe for such office work.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Anchal Department should get the credit for the *tapal* that they carry.

PRESIDENT: The actual cost of printing must, I think, be very inconsiderable.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The total cost is only Rs. 30,760. The cost of envelopes also is included in this.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): There are service envelopes also?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Much use is not made of them.

Another point referred to by Mr T. K. Velu Pillai is the grant of personal allowance to the Superintendent. In the budget for 1099, no provision is made for the personal allowance of the Superintendent. He is confirmed in his place.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Local allowance is provided for.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Yes. A local allowance is provided for, because he is in charge of the Mint also.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether that is not part of his legitimate work.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They were separate appointments and paid for separately.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know what is the pay attached to the post of the Superintendent, Stamp Manufactory.

MR. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): His pay is Rs. 100 to 150.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What was the reason for raising his pay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The pay of the office was not raised. The present Superintendent was a super numerary in the P. W. D. He had to be absorbed in some other de partment. There was a vacancy here and he was accordingly absorbed and has been now confirmed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know what is the particular necessity to retain this particular gentleman there on a higher pay. Do the Government contemplate his absorption in any other place?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is no chance of absorption, because there is no vacancy elsewhere.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Are there no vacancies in other departments, Sir?

PRESIDENT: It was apparently not possible to absorb him in other departments.

T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Have the Government considered the question?

PRESIDENT: They must have.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With reference to the motion before the House, in spite of the Financial Secretary's explanation, I have not been enlightened as to the particular advantage gained by having service stamps instead of reverting to the old practice of franking Government communications. Before proceeding further, I must draw the attention of the House to page 45 of the Statistics for 1097. I see certain difficulties in the figures for 1097 relating to Anchal and service stamps manufactured and issued in the years 1096 and 1097. Particularly as regards the figures for 1097, I see that the number of 10 cash Anchal covers that were manufactured in 1097 was 16,73,750, whereas the number issued appears to be 17 lakhs and more.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I do not understand the member's difficulty.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I take it that the figures for 1097 denote the number actually manufactured in the year.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No. They denote the number issued.

MR. P. K NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : The heading appears to be this. 'Stamps manufactured'; that is one column. 'Stamps issued'; that is the other column. Is it the balance of the previous year that has gone to swell the number?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Yes, certainly.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) ; Well, Sir, the separate figures for the service cards and covers have not been published in the Statistics. From what I have been able to understand from the Financial Secretary, he gives certain figures which are but approximate. Now, the only advantage that has been pointed out in retaining the service stamps seems to be that there is no chance of fraud being perpetrated in respect of communications addressed to Government. Is this the ground upon which this over-prrduction of stamps has been resorted to? Have there been serious malpractices and was it as a result of such malpractices that the Government resorted to this system? If, as a matter of fact, there was absolutely no malpractice the question naturally arises, why Government should be put

to the necessity of manufacturing these stamps entailing a good deal of trouble and labour on the part of the department concerned and issue them to the various offices, wasting so much time in the matter of affixing these stamps, with occasional difficulties caused by the stamps missing and thereby the addressee being called upon to pay over again? Why all this trouble should be undergone, is not very clear. Hence I have very great pleasure in supporting Mr. Padmanabha Pillai's motion.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I have nothing to add to what I said.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I too have nothing to say. As regards the question as to what led the Government to alter the old system, I am not in a position to say anything. I have not seen the file myself. The reason appears to me to be the one that I suggested, *viz.*, to prevent all possibilities of abuse. There might not have been any other reason except to enable the Anchal Department to find out the exact value of the covers that they carry on behalf of Government and to give them credit for that. These reasons appear to be adequate. This system is not peculiar to Travancore. This is the practice adopted all over India so far as I know. I think it would not be safe to revert to the old system which must have been abandoned for the above reasons.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Was it not one of the reasons to abandon the old system, that, but for these service stamps, it would be very difficult to ascertain the exact weight of the letters, credit being given to the Anchal Department, and would it not also be much better that all the letters are weighed accurately?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not sure. I have not read the file.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I believe that was one of the reasons.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am not convinced of the necessity for the retention of these service stamps; but if Mr. George would give an assurance that he would look into the matter—

PRESIDENT: This is a question of which no notice has been given. The Financial Secretary says that he will look into the matter.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Then I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I will now put this Demand to the vote. The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·88 lakh be granted under Demand V—Stamps.

The grant was made.

DEMND VI REGISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·66 lakhs under Demand VI—Registration.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Motion 150.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

150. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for binding charges by Rs. 100.*

My object is to draw the attention of the heads of departments, particularly those of them who have their headquarters at Trivandrum, to get the binding work done from the Government Press, where the binding section have work only for half the period during which they are employed in the Press. There was a good deal of correspondence about this. It is a matter for consideration whether these men employed there should not be given full time work so long as they are compelled to remain in the Press all the 5½ hours. I want only an assurance.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, between 8,000 and 9,000 volumes of bound books are to be supplied to the Registration Department every year. Nearly 50 per cent. of the books are now bound by private contractors locally. I do not know whether the Government Press will be in a position to bind 9,000 volumes and supply them in time.

As regards the observation that the binders have only half-time work, Government cannot say anything until the report of the Press Committee is received. There is one serious disadvantage in having all these books bound in the Government Press. If they are bound locally, the transport charges can be saved to some extent.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That could not be, because the contractors themselves will have to be paid the transport charges.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are not these books bound in Trivandrum and taken to the several district offices, and are not the contractors paid the transport charges?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Different contractors are engaged for different districts.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are not these books bound in Trivandrum?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The contractors are engaged in different localities. Nearly 50 per cent. of the books are bound in Trivandrum.

PRESIDENT: The matter will be examined.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 151 and 152.

The following motions were not made :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

151. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

152. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 450 for tour charges by Rs. 200.

Motion 153.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

153. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 650 for examination charges.*

This is a new item added in the new budget. First of all, I am not aware of the details to which this item relates. It is stated there simply as examination charges. I therefore move that the allotment be omitted.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, this item is intended to meet the charges in connection with the Registration Entrance Examination proposed to be held in 1099. It is not a new item. Examinations were held in 1095 and 1096 and a sum of Rs. 614 was expended in 1095 and Rs. 562 in 1096. If the member will refer to page 14 in the budget, he will find that a sum of Rs. 2,000 is provided under receipts, so that this expenditure is more than covered by the receipts.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In the light of the explanation given by the Chief Secretary, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 154 to 156.

The following motions were not made :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

154. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 250 for office expenses by Rs. 150.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

155. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,860 for Direction by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

156. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 105 for office expenses by Rs. 50.

Motion 157.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

157. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.*

Sir, as I remarked during the course of the general discussion of the budget, this item is called "office expenses" and nothing definite is

[Mr. K. George.]

stated as regards the details of expenditure. We do not know what items are included. Without an enumeration of the various items, we cannot grasp what is meant by 'office expenses and miscellaneous'. Last year, it was budgeted only for Rs. 800, but now it has increased to Rs. 1,000. So I submit that Rs. 500 can conveniently be reduced from this allotment.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to reduce the amount. The allotment is mainly intended for carriage of stationery and register books from Trivandrum to the various Sub-Registrars' offices. I would draw the attention of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to the fact that, when Rs. 1,000 is divided among 76 Sub-Registrars' offices, each office gets hardly Rs. 13.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether there are Sub-Registrars' offices in Travancore that are not self-supporting, and if so, how many?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Except Devicolam and Peermade, where there are only *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars, all the other offices in the State are, I think, self-supporting.

These articles of stationery have to be taken once in six months; and in 1097, the actual expenditure was Rs. 1,374. The allotment of Rs. 800 sanctioned in 1098 is found to be insufficient. Considering the increase in cart and boat hire, the amount is absolutely necessary. This is what the Director of Registration says:

"It will not be possible to meet the actual expenditure even with the proposed amount; and if it is further reduced, it will be quite impossible to send the register books and articles of stationery to the various Sub-Registry offices and the work of those offices may come to a standstill".

The member says that nothing definite is stated. All of us know the several items of office expenditure.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Can the member definitely state all the items?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are several items. They are too numerous to be mentioned.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): All that cannot be definitely stated. Office expenses include brooms, nails, paste and such other things. I may assure the House that every item of office expenditure has to be detailed and that everything is very carefully scrutinised by the Audit Office and nothing is passed without being challenged.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What about 'miscellaneous'?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The heading is 'office expenses and miscellaneous'. That is all.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: (*Muvattupuzha*): രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ആഫീസ് ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ട കാര്യത്തെപ്പററിയുള്ള പ്രമേയം പറയുമ്പോൾ രജിസ്റ്റർആഫീസ്കളിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെക്കൂടിപററി പറയേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. മിക്ക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അഴിമതിക്കാരായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്കു തങ്ങളും ഒഴിഞ്ഞുനിൽക്കേണ്ട എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിട്ടാണൊ എന്നു അറിഞ്ഞില്ല മുമ്പു വലിയ അഴിമതിക്കാരല്ലാതിരുന്ന രജിസ്റ്റർമാരും ഇപ്പോൾ ജനോപദ്രവത്തിനു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: As the motion before the House relates not to a reduction of the total allotment of the Registration Department, but only to the reduction of a certain amount under contingencies, you cannot discuss questions of general policy or criticise the working of the department.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എനിക്കു ഇതിൽകൂടുതൽ ഒന്നും പറയാൻ ഇല്ല.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In the light of the explanation given by the Chief Secretary, I do not press the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 158.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I do not move the following motion:

158. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,848 for pay of menials by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 159.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I rise to move the following:—

159. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,529 for pay of establishment of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

Now there is no separate Registrar for Joint Stock Companies; his duty is done by the Director of Registration and he is given a personal allowance. So I have sent up this motion just to enquire whether a separate establishment is necessary when the Director of Registration is doing the duty of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. In the office of the Director of Registration there are a Head Clerk, an Accountant and Clerks and Typists. There are here also, *i. e.*, in the establishment of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies a Head Clerk, an Accountant, 2 Clerks, Typists, Attender, peons and so many persons. I think the establishment is too much in the particular department and it can be reduced. That is why I have sent up this motion.

[Mr J. John Nidiry.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, Government have been looking into the question whether it would be possible to reduce the establishment of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Government asked the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to see if any reduction could be made. He says it is not possible to have a reduction just now for he finds there has been great laxity in the filing of returns etc., by many companies registered recently *i. e.* after the war, and that the managers of some companies do not even care to send replies to requisitions made to the office. He proposes to enforce a compulsory provisions of the Companies Regulation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has there been any prosecution for transgressing the provisions of the Companies Regulation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not recently. In consequence of this, there is additional work in the office. He says further that some of the companies which are only nominal and are not working may be wound up soon and the others which are actually working or have any prospect of working will comply with the provisions of the law in the matter of filing the necessary returns. After the companies are brought up to date in the matter of filing the balance sheet and other returns, it may be possible to systematise the work of the office and reduce the clerical establishment a little.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether the heads of departments generally show reluctance in the matter of the reduction of hands?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a matter of opinion. Even in cases where the Heads of Departments are reluctant, Government have reduced the hands in spite of their unwillingness. Government are willing to reduce establishments whenever there is scope.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Are the Government thinking of reducing the work here?

PRESIDENT: The matter is being examined.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Could not the allotment be reduced by at least Rs. 529?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reduction could be made at any time. I hope the member will allow the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to have the establishment at least for the time being. There is another disadvantage. The two offices are held in different places.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Can there not be a saving if they are united in one place, in a bigger house?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That cannot be helped.

PRESIDENT: As the Chief Secretary said, the matter is being looked into. These things cannot be done in a day; that is the difficulty. The Director of Registration has been asked to examine the matter and report. It has not escaped the notice of Government. That is what the Chief Secretary says.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*:) In the light of the explanation given by the Chief Secretary, I do not press the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 160.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I move the following:—

160. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,718, for establishment by Rs. 1,000.

The existing establishment was sanctioned after the reorganisation of the department, which took place at a time when one of the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakils was also the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. There was not a big staff attached to the office of the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil and so this establishment was then necessary. That is not the case now. The head of the Registration Department is now the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies also and that is what it ought to be. I am going to suggest, in another motion that stands in my name, the removal of the office of Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to the office of the Director of Registration itself. The Director of Registration has a big staff in his office; and if he can attend to the work of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies also, I think his office establishment can as well attend to the work of the Joint Stock Company Registrar's office and so I move that a reduction be made of Rs. 1,000 and adjustment be made accordingly.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, the Director of Registration says that his staff consisting of 19 clerks is not able to cope with the increasing work of his own office. So it would be impossible for him to get the work of the other department done by his own clerks. Then, as regards removing the office of the Director of Registration, there is a practical difficulty. In the first place, there is no room for accommodating it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): If the staff of the Joint Stock Company Registrar is reduced, will they not find accommodation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have explained how it is not possible to reduce the staff of the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies at once. The office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies is held in a rented building taken up for three years; and the period has not yet expired. So that it is not possible.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But the lessor may be induced to cancel the contract.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am sure that the Chief Secretary will consent to a small reduction of Rs. 529.

PRESIDENT: May be moved as an amendment to Mr. Padmanabha Pillai's motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I move it as an amendment.

PRESIDENT: I have no objection.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): We find on looking into the budget that there is an attender on Rs. 14 and five peons on Rs. 9 to Rs. 11 not to speak of the personal allowance to a Typist of Rs. 12 a month; so that a small reduction in this, I am sure, would make up a sum of Rs. 529. The Registrar does not want a special attender and the number of peons could also be reduced slightly.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The attender is for the office and not for the Registrar.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): It is only when the Registrar goes there that the attender is necessary. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I think the amendment requires seconding.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I second it.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your amendment?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have only explained the decision of Government. The question of reducing the establishment of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies is being considered.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not press the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Padmanabha Pillai?

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not press it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 161 to 163.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

161. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,529 for pay of establishment by Rs. 529.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

162. To omit the allotment of Rs. 75 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

163. To omit the allotment of Rs. 30 for hot weather charges.

Motion 164.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I move:

164. To omit the allotment of Rs. 610 for rents.

The Chief Secretary said that there is not proper accommodation for holding the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in the place where the office of the Director of Registration is held. My information is otherwise. I am told that the building—a very spacious one—is spacious enough to hold the two offices together. Another point that is raised by the Chief Secretary is that the building is rented for three years.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not hear.

PRESIDENT: The building is rented for three years.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): All this fault lies in taking this building on rent for a term when of course the building should be taken on rent for Government purposes in such a manner as not to handicap the future actions of the Government when necessity arises. I think that that should not stand in our way when it is found that the building is not necessary. It is in the interest of the taxpayer that a reduction should be made and I therefore move for the motion on the ground that there is no necessity for such a building.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I may explain that the period expires by Kanni 1099 and the Registrar has assured the Government that he will try to look out for a cheaper building. In the meantime the rent may be allowed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Would it not be possible to move the office there?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Where would he sit then?

MR. R. KRSHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Alternately in both offices.

PRESIDENT: Between the two offices. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know, Sir, whether it would not be better to have the Director of Registration and the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in the same place.

PRESIDENT: He is trying to find out a building where both the offices could be accommodated.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): On that assurance, I withdraw the motion.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 165.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

165. To omit the allotment of Rs. 50 for office expenses of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

PRESIDENT: I shall now put this Demand to the vote.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2·66 lakhs be granted under Demand VI—Registration.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for the vote of the House in respect of a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·88 lakhs under Demand VII—General Administration, Secretariat, etc.

Motion 166.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I do not make the motion standing in my name.

The following motion was accordingly not made.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI;

166. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,590, for pay of clerks in the Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 3,800.

Motions 167 to 169.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I move—

PRESIDENT: There are three motions which are identical, standing in the names of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, Mr. Madhava Variar, and Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai. I call upon Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to make the motion.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I beg to make the following motion:—

167. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Assistant to the Head Translator.

This proposed Assistant Head Translatorship, everybody knows, is a new measure; and I see no reason why this new appointment should be made now. This department has been working for the last so many years without an assistant, as we have got so many assistants in every department without any good whatsoever. This new appointment will also end in failure; so I press for the reduction of this unnecessary item.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, the appointment of an Assistant to the Head Translator is for bringing out a speedy Malayalam translation of the proceedings of this

Council for the benefit of the general public who do not understand English. According to a rough calculation, the number of Gazette pages of the Malayalam translation of the proceedings of the Council for one year comes to 1,600. The translation has to be published under the supervision of some responsible officer of the Government. The Head Translator has got sufficient work to do and he is not in a position to attend to this work, so that it is proposed to give the work of translating these proceedings on the piece-work system and appoint an Assistant Translator to revise these translations as they have to be issued under the authority of Government. It is with that object the provision has been made.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Should not this allotment come under 15 C—"Legislative Council"?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not necessarily, because the present Translation Section comes under 15 A. There are the Head Translator and his staff and the whole of it is provided for under 15 A.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May be. But why should not this allotment in respect of translation of the proceedings of the Legislative Council come under 15 C?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is another staff for doing legislative work, but it is provided for under 15 A. For example, the clerks of the Legislative Section all come under 15 A.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is the new appointment made simply for translating the proceedings of the Legislative Council?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not necessarily. The idea is to give the translation on the piece-work system at a fixed rate. We have to do a lot of Tamil translation work also.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Are the Council Proceedings to be translated into Tamil also?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are incurring an expenditure of Rs. 90 to 100 a month on an average on account of Tamil translation.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it to be continued?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The idea is to utilise the services of the Assistant Translator, if we appoint a man who knows both Malayalam and Tamil, for the translation of Tamil also.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can that minimise the expenditure now incurred in regard to Tamil translation?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. That is the idea. But it may not be possible to entirely dispense with the piece-work system.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will these Malayalam publications be made available at a cheap rate? Can we have a rough idea of the cost, because the English publications are rather costly?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter which has to be considered separately.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, as a member of this House and as one who takes some interest in the vernaculars of this country, I am deeply concerned in the matter before the House. The idea of translating the Council Proceedings into Malayalam by a private gentleman and getting it supervised by an officer on a small salary cannot, I think, commend itself to the Council. If you go in for really good men with a reputation for Malayalam scholarship they will certainly resent their work being revised by a subordinate officer getting a small pay. I think, Sir, that the Government will not be able to secure the services of any efficient translator under the circumstances.

PRESIDENT: There is some misapprehension. I should like to explain the matter. The reason why this additional man has been included under General Administration is that it is not the object of Government that he should, and he alone should, supervise and edit the work of the translators who do this work on the piece-work system. The matter has not been worked out in detail and the Head Translator will do that. The Head Translator is very heavily worked and he wants relief. To get relief he must have an assistant. There is also delay in the work. The idea is not to earmark the new man for the purpose of the translation of the Legislative Council Proceedings. The additional man will be given facilities for work and the translation will be done by private agency; thereby the Head Translator will be rendered assistance. These are details of office work and they will be regulated in the best interests of the work and with due regard to the status of the people to whom the translation is entrusted.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am not at all against appointing a man as assistant to the Head Translator. I raised this question in the last meeting of the Legislative Council when the resolution regarding the translation into Malayalam of all Government proceedings was discussed. I then said that a really competent man must be appointed to translate these proceedings. Even though the Head Translator might supervise the work, I think it is due to the literary savants in Travancore that they should not be obliged to submit to this system. The Council Proceedings should be translated, if at all they are going to be translated, in very dignified, chaste and clear Malayalam. It is not always that the Head Translator to

Government is a recognised authority on Malayalam Literature. Sometimes it may be so. But so long as promotions go in the ordinary fashion, it is just possible that one who started service on Rs. 40 and possessing at the time no great knowledge of Malayalam, would find himself in the position of Head Translator in a few years. It is not reasonable to expect that a private agency which is composed of really eminent men well-known in literature will submit to the operations of his pruning knife. I am not, as I pointed out already, against the Assistant Translator being appointed. If Government have got work enough for two Assistant Translators I am for appointing two. But the condition of Malayalam literature is such that, unless we have an exceedingly good man to do this work, no results will be achieved. The encouragement of the vernaculars is certainly a sacred duty of the Government, but if it is to be encouraged, it must be encouraged so as to bring in a healthy condition. There is absolutely no use in getting the sort of Malayalam which we find in certain Government publications. I quite accede to the view that the Head Translator to Government is one of the hardworked officers, but I only wish that the relief should be commensurate with the amount of work and would also add to the welfare of Malayalam Literature. If you have got a man on Rs. 125 to supervise the translation of a respectable writer of Malayalam, the result will be unsatisfactory. No respectable man will undertake this work and this Assistant will be of absolutely no use except to draw the salary which a generous Council and a generous Government might be pleased to allow.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I rise to correct a small misapprehension? The supervision referred to by Mr. Velu Pillai is not the kind of supervision intended by the Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The word used by the Chief Secretary and the Dewan, if I understood correctly, has conveyed a meaning to my mind and I think it is the correct meaning.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The idea at the back of the Government in the appointment of the Assistant Translator for the translation of these Legislative Council Proceedings is to see that the necessary instructions are given to the piece-work translators to be employed for the purpose of translating these proceedings, the number of pages to be translated by each piece-work translator is distributed and that the translation is made within the prescribed time, to get the translation and send it to the Press, and to read the proofs and to attend to such kind of routine work. That is the kind of work that will be entrusted to the Assistant Translator. In case well-known Malayalam scholars are appointed under the piece-work system for translating these Legislative Council Proceedings, the Head Translator will read through the Malayalam without causing any resentment to the translators. It is mainly to correct the proceedings in this manner that the Head Translator and his Assistant will devote their attention.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The Assistant Translator will be something like a foreman in the Government Press? (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, he would be something more than that. There is a certain amount of standardisation and uniformity to be secured.

That is one object. Another object is that, if this man knows Malayalam and Tamil, he will attend to the Tamil translation also for which a large sum of money is now spent by Government. It is a two-fold work.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Who does the Tamil translation now?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is the Tamil Translator that does it now.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I am surprised to find that in the present discussion the cause of Tamil translation is entirely left out. Is it that the Tamil people should not have the benefit of the use of the Legislative Council Proceedings?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That matter is not now under the consideration of Government and it is not expected that the Assistant Translator will have anything to do with the Tamil translation of the proceedings of the Legislative Council.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): What provision is made now?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No provision is made now. All the ordinary Government Proceedings are translated in Tamil and published in the Gazette.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Under what system?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the piece-work system.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Then the Tamil Proceedings are left without any supervision. That is quite unsatisfactory.

PRESIDENT: You have not understood Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar correctly. The piece-work will continue to some extent and this Assistant Translator will also supervise that work. That is the intention of Government; that is what he says.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are we to understand Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar to say that no supervision is to be exercised over the actual work of translation of the Assistant Translator?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Head Translator will supervise his work.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are we to have hack writers or literary men to do the the work of translation?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Literary men, if we can have them.

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it not routine work that he is going to do?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

Mr. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Is it that an Assistant Translator who is duly qualified in Tamil also will be appointed?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That will depend upon the person. We do not know now who is going to be appointed. Government will appoint a man who is competent both in Malayalam and Tamil; and they have to see that they secure the right sort of man.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is there any difficulty in appointing a man who will be able to do this work himself?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not think one man will be able to do the work himself. It is not at all within the range of possibility. Even with a man with the greatest celerity, it would be impossible; the bulk of the volume is so great.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will it be enough if there are two men instead of one?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know that. I have not worked out the details.

Mr. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are we to understand that there is nobody to be responsible for the translation of these piece-work men?

PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary will satisfy you on that point when he makes his reply.

Mr. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): அஸிஸ்ற்றென்று டிரான்ஸிலேற்றரை நிறுத்த வேண்டுமென்று சொன்ன நோக்கமானது, இப்போது ஒரு Head Translator ம் அவருடைய குமஸ்தாக்களும் இருக்கிறார்கள். அதுவொன்றே போதுமானது. தமிழ்மொழி பகர்ப்புக்கு ஒருவருமேயில்லை. இப்போது பீஸ் ஒர்க்கு (Piece work) கொடுத்து மொழி பகர்த்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இந்த பட்ஜெற்றில் (Budget) பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு வேலைக்கு மலயாளத்துக்கும் தமிழுக்கும் சேர்த்து வருஷம் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 3,200 ம் ஒரு அஸிஸ்ற்றெண்ட் டிரான்ஸ்லேற்றருக்கு ரூ. 1100 ம் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தமிழ்மொழி பகர்ப்புக்கு தனிமையாக ஒரு டிரான்ஸிலேற்றரை நியமித்தால்

[President.]

மாதம் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 100 சம்பளம் கொடுத்தாலும் ரூ. 1,200 தான் செலவாகும். இந்த வழியாக கவர்ண்மென்றுக்கு ரூ 2,000 லாபமுண்டு. தவிரவும் பிரத்தேகமாக ஒரு டிரான்ஸிலேற்றரை நியமிக்கிறதாயிருந்தால் அதிக வேலை நடக்க சௌகரியமுண்டு. பீஸ் ஒர்க்கு ஏர்ப்பாட்டினால் வேலை குறைவாகவும் சிலவு அதிகமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. மொழி பகர்ப்பும் நல்ல ரீதியிலுமிருக்கமாட்டாது. தமிழ் மொழி பகர்ப்பு சுத்தமான தமிழ் நடையில் இருக்கவேணுமானால் தமிழ் Optional எடுத்து B. A. செயித்த ஒருவரை டிரான்ஸ்லேற்றராய் நியமித்தால் மட்டுமே சாத்யமாகும். அல்லாமல் மலயாளமும் தமிழும் தெரிந்த ஒருவரை நியமித்தால் ரண்டு வேலைக்கும் அனுகூலமுண்டென்று கவர்ண்மென்றுக்கு ஒரு சமயம் எண்ணமிருக்கலாம். உண்மையில் ரண்டு வேலையும் சரிவர நடை பெறாது. மலயாளத்தில் நல்லபாண்டித்தியமுள்ளவராயிருந்தால் மட்டுமே நல்ல மலயாளத்தில் எழுதமுடியும். அதுபோலவே தமிழில் நல்ல பாண்டித்தியமுள்ளவராயிருந்தால் மட்டுமே நல்ல தமிழில் தர்ஜிமை செய்யமுடியும். தமிழில் பாண்டித்தியமுள்ள பட்டதாரிகள் லெகுவில் கிடைக்கக்கூடும்.

தோவாளை, அகஸ்தீஸ்வரம், செங்கோட்டை, தேவிகுளம் இந்த நாலு தாலூக்காக்களும் பூராவாயி தமிழர்களும் தவிர முக்கிய பட்டணங்களிலும் பாதிக்குமேல் தமிழர்களே வசித்துவருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் தமிழ் இந்த சமஸ்தானத்தில் முக்கியமாய் வழங்கிவருகிற பாஷைகளில் ஒன்றுஎன்றே சொல்லக்கூடும். அதினால் பீஸ் ஒர்க்கை நிறுத்தி ஒரு ஸ்திரம் தமிழ் டிரான்ஸ்லேற்றரை நியமித்தால் கவர்ண்மென்றுக்கு சிலவு குறையும்.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): When I made my budget speech my request was that the Assistant to the Head Translator should at least be a Tamil scholar. But now I understand that it is not possible. I request therefore that a person who knows Tamil as well be appointed so that hereafter the Tamil translations appearing in the Government Gazette etc. may be satisfactory to the public.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Who does the Tamil translation now?

PRESIDENT: Whom are you asking?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The Chief Secretary to Government.

PRESIDENT: He is not in possession of the House now. You may ask him when he speaks.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I expect that the Assistant will be a Malayalam Translator. I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House permit Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to withdraw the motion?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I object to the withdrawal of the motion.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): We wish to hear the Chief Secretary to Government.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are only engaging scholars. They will have to submit their translations to the Head Translator because they have to be issued under the authority of the Government. As to the functions of the translators, I may say that the Head Translator will be held responsible for the Malayalam publication of the proceedings. He will be held responsible for their correctness.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to say whether the Head Translator is the highest authority in matters of Malayalam literature?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): So far as the Government publications are concerned, he has to be considered as the highest authority.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do Government accept him as the highest authority?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): So far as the Government are concerned, he has to be presumed to be so and we have to rely on him.

In regard to the query as to what arrangement is in force for the translation in Tamil I may say that it is done on piece-work by Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar, Tamil Pandit in the College.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I wish to know who supervises the work.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Nobody supervises his work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): With regard to the present Tamil Translator, may I know whether he is recognised to be a competent Tamil Pandit?

PRESIDENT: He is the Tamil Pandit in the College.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Cannot the work be done by ordinary clerks?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Who does the Malayalam translation work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): You mean the normal work?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is done by the clerks in the Translation Section working under the Head Translator.

[President.]

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Why not make similar arrangements for Tamil as well?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The piece-work system is in force. There is not sufficient work for a full-time Tamil Translator.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why should there be Tamil translations so long as Malayalam is the State language?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I beg to—

PRESIDENT: You cannot question him. He is not speaking, but is only putting a question to Mr. Krishna Pillai, who is in possession of the House.

Does the House want this motion to be put to the vote? The proposer has withdrawn, but the House has not accepted the withdrawal.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 168 and 169.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

168. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Assistant to the Head Translator.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

169. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for Assistant to the Head Translator.

Motion 170.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I beg to move the following motion:—

170. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for personal allowance to clerks.

It can be seen from the budget that this is a new item that is going to be added in the next year's budget. This sum of Rs. 1,500 for expenditure on personal allowance is certainly a superfluity. If it is intended for lower grade clerks, this cannot be allowed, because their pay has now been increased from Rs. 19,800 to Rs. 22,280 without any increase in their number.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I will explain that item. The establishments in the Secretariat were revised in Dhanu 1097. Before the revision, there were six clerks styled record-keepers, drawing a pay of Rs. 50-5-70 each. There was also another clerk who was drawing Rs. 55. All these seven clerks were after the reorganisation put into the lower grade, the maximum pay of which is only Rs. 50. The excess between their original pay and the revised pay has therefore to be treated as personal allowance. Otherwise, these clerks will suffer. For these reasons, a personal allowance is provided for each of these seven clerks.

PRESIDENT: In the light of the explanation offered, do you press your motion?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): No, I withdraw.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 171.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

171. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,452 for typists by Rs. 2,000.

Motion 172.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:—

172. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,390 for head binder, etc., by Rs. 300.

I find at page 59 of the budget that there is a provision for a head binder in the Secretariat. I do not think that there should be a special binder for the Secretariat when all the binding work could be got done in the Government Press which is situated so close to the Secretariat.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He is not, properly speaking, a binder but is only a head mochee who has got to do petty binding work. There are files and papers in the office which have to be bound; and some of them being confidential cannot be sent out of the office. One man has to do that work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether there is any objection to change his designation accordingly.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No harm in calling him so, if the Council is so minded.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to withdraw the motion on that understanding.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 173.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

173. To omit the allotment of Rs. 858 for temporary establishment.

ബഡ്ജററിൽ കാണുന്നതു, താലൂക്കും,വില്ലേജും മാന്വൽ എഴുതുന്നതിന് തൽകാലം ശമ്പളക്കാർ വേണമെന്നാണ്. അതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം എന്താണെന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞതിന്മേൽ എനിക്കു പറയേണ്ടതു പറയാം.

PRESIDENT: The provision is for the preparation of the *Land Revenue Manual* also. 'Village and Taluk Manuals' is a mistake.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There is already the *Land Revenue Manual*.

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We want to consolidate the *Land Revenue Manual* and compile Taluk and Village Manuals also.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിലേക്ക പ്രത്യേകം സിൽബന്തികളും പ്രത്യേകം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും വേണ്ടതാണൊ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The *Land Revenue Manual* published by the late Rao Bahadur R. Mahadeva Aiyar consists of five volumes, of which only three volumes are actually in everyday use. The idea is to revise these volumes. Now they are too unwieldy, though they contain a mine of information. As a text-book it is not very useful on account of the fact that a lot of notifications, standing orders, etc., which have been issued during the past two or three years have not been embodied therein. The idea is to republish the whole in one or two decent volumes so that it will be useful as a work of reference and also to the students who appear for the Revenue Test Examination which has been prescribed as a test for promotion in the Land Revenue Department.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is not the pay of the officer proposed for the purpose too large? Can not the work be done by the regular staff in the Secretariat?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): An officer of at least the Tahsildar's status has to be employed. Otherwise, the work will not be useful.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it proposed to levy any examination fee for the Revenue Test mentioned?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Two or three examinations have already been held and fees are being levied.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞ കാരണങ്ങൾ ന്യായമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഇതു പറഞ്ഞതിൽപിന്നീട് ഇവിടെ ഒരുസ്പെഷ്യൽ ആഫീസറെ കൂട്ടികാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായുള്ള താൽകാലിക ശമ്പളത്തുകയാണ് ൮൫൮ രൂപാ. ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതി വളരെ പരമാർത്ഥമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. എന്നിരുന്നാലും, ഈ ചിലവു അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The provision is only for a clerk and peons.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അതിന് ഇത്രവലിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരൻ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഒരു സൂപ്പർന്യൂമെററി സൂപ്രണ്ട് ഉണ്ട് എന്നുകാണുന്നു.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no supernumerary Superintendent now. He has been absorbed in a temporary vacancy. It is not a work that could be done by a Superintendent.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഏതുമാതിരി ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ വേണമെന്നാണു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): But it has to be done by an officer of the status of a Tahsildar who has some experience of field work in the Land Revenue Department. It has to be done by an experienced officer.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Can it not be done by piece-work? (*Laughter.*)

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the Village Manual will be printed in Malayalam?

PRESIDENT: Are you asking a question?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai has sat down and nobody is in possession of the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The position of the Government is inconsistent in this matter. With regard to the translation of the Council Proceedings into Malayalam, Government accept the principle that a private agency can be obtained to work on the piece-work system. But, in regard to the question of appointing an officer for compiling the *Land Revenue Manual*, Government have thought that an officer of the Tahsildar's status is necessary. Sir, I do not think that an officer of the Tahsildar's grade, of the kind ordinarily met with in Travancore, is well qualified for the task. A Tahsildar is a man, who has, I am sorry to say, taken a temporary farewell of linguistic remembrances. There are few Tahsildars who are able to put their thoughts in proper form. To write such an important book, to analyse the contents of the Revenue Manual and to put it in a better form than the late Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar, an able and trusted officer, is a thing absolutely impossible for any of our Tahsildars.

There are in the Secretariat, Sir, very many good officers with plenty of experience of revenue work. We have had some evidence of it when the question of Assistant Tahsildars was discussed. It has been usual in Travancore to appoint some of the senior officers to do special work. Mr. George was asked to report on the question of educational expenditure as President of an important committee. Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar was President of another important Committee. There are competent officers in the Secretariat who work these revenue matters

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

day in and day out, who, by dint of hard work and sheer ability, have risen to the position which they now occupy. The idea of Government now is to put an officer of the Tahsildar's status in charge of this work. I am not forgetful of the fact that a Tahsildar might have started as a clerk on Rs. 40, or in those old days, on Rs. 20 in the Huzur. But the times have changed. That self-reliance which is necessary for a literary work of this nature is surely absent in a Tahsildar, whose business has been to report himself to every kind of visitor and to be a kind of servant to all the heads of departments.

PRESIDENT: It is not clear to me what literary ability is required for this sort of work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am sure the Council will bear with me in this matter. Literary excellence will be always valued in this world as long as human nature is what it is. Literary excellence has alone the capacity to please. Literary work will be admired and an officer who combines in himself an extensive knowledge of the details of administration and who knows the work and the method of exposition, will certainly do the work better than another not so well-equipped. I object to the principle of taking an outsider for this special work when there are so many capable officers in the Secretariat. Sir, the Secretariat has the good fortune to have a number of good officers. Almost every day in their life these officers are coming in contact with the Head of the Administration and they will be able to do real solid work. I think this Council will take this matter very seriously and refuse to allow the grant for the appointment of a Tahsildar on Rs. 250 for doing this important business. It has to be remembered that the work to be done is to be an improvement on what has been done by a very eminent officer whose memory will always be cherished by the people of Travancore—I mean, the late Rao Bahadur R. Mahadeva Aiyar.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): Sir, I wish to support the motion for the reduction of the grant. I can well appreciate the desire on the part of the Government to revise the *Land Revenue Manual* and to issue it in two or three decent volumes. But the pay proposed to the Special Officer seems to me to be extravagant and unnecessary. The material is already there. The compilation has already been done to a certain extent. Supplements to the *Land Revenue Manual* have also been issued and only the standing orders and notifications issued by Government from time to time have to be inserted. There is also a very competent Secretary attached to the Secretariat who is in charge of the Land Revenue Section. Under his guidance, it should be possible, with the help of a Superintendent, to compile a smaller edition with all the information in regard to the current standing orders. I might also, for the information of the House, mention that, when the matter came before the Finance Committee, we had occasion

to examine the scheme and that we were of opinion that a Tahsildar need not be entertained for this purpose.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has taken the wind out of my sails. I was just going to say what he just said. With his experience, Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar, if I may be permitted to say so, deserves to be put in charge of this important work. I do not think anybody else will be able to do so much justice to the work, as will be evident from the masterly way in which he spoke during the discussion of the motion relating to Assistant Tahsildars. In connection with the compilation of the *Land Revenue Manual* with the help of an able Superintendent like Mr. Madhava Kurup, I am sure the work can be done in the Secretariat itself.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I shall first explain the kind of revision that is going to be effected. Volumes II and III of the *Land Revenue Manual* are in daily use. Volume II contains a catalogue of the G. O's rules and notifications arranged chronologically, with an index. Many of these rules, notifications and G. O's have been considerably modified by several notifications issued subsequently. After the issue of the *Land Revenue Manual*, two sets of supplements, one each to Volumes I and II, have been issued. They have all followed the very same arrangement as in the original Manual. The first set of supplements ended with 1919, I think if I remember correct. So between that year and the present, no attempt has been made to revise the Manual or issue supplements to it, so that the work is in arrears now for four years. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has been saying that the materials are ready. They are not ready. They have to be collected.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyattinkara*): May I know whether the Secretariat has not a consolidated list of the Standing Orders issued after 1915?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There is; but it has to be verified by an examination of the files and records to see whether the collection is exhaustive. I have got a collection of orders which deserve to go into the manual. It will have to be examined whether the list is exhaustive. The kind of manual we are going to have is not one in which all these would be printed *in extenso* chronologically. It is proposed to arrange subject-war all orders, rules, notifications, etc., that appear in Volume II and the subsequent ones and publish them in a concise from somewhat on the lines of the Board's Standing Orders, Madras. This is a very difficult task. It wil be absolutely impossible for a Superintendent without any revenue experience to tackle this work and put it into proper shape.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are we to understand that it is physically impossible for Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar with his revenue and income tax work, of which he is in charge, to find any spare time to attend to this work?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Revenue Secretary has now got in the Revenue Section all work connected with the Land Revenue Department, the income tax work, besides the work connected with 19 Municipalities; and I do not think he could find time for this work along with his section work. It will be physically impossible for him to find the leisure to attend to this work in addition to his current work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): With the help of a Superintendent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A Tahsildar who is acquainted with the details of revenue administration and the working of the *Land Revenue Manual* in the Taluk and Village offices will be better able than a Superintendent to undertake and perform this work. Whichever officer is selected, the idea of Government is to associate him with the officer in charge of the Revenue Section in so far as the revision of the Manual is concerned.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Cannot the Secretary guide the Superintendent in drafting?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For original drafting a Tahsildar with a good knowledge of the working of the land revenue administration will be necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ascertain whether much of the volume of work that the Tahsildar has been doing as original work is in English or in Malayalam.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The bulk of the work is in Malayalam. But he understands English. The correspondence is largely in Malayalam.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is the business of such a technical nature that an expert is necessary?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir. That is the very reason why the Government want a Tahsildar. He will be associated with the Revenue Secretary. A Superintendent who does not know the details of the land revenue administration will not be able to correctly understand the principles and put them in proper language.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not a clerk of the Secretariat sent out as a Tahsildar without any experience whatsoever?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, sometimes. When they are sent out, they are, of course, new to the work; and they learn the details gradually.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Had Mr. Raja Raja Varma Raja the necessary acquaintance with the Account Department at the time he was appointed as Efficiency Audit Officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He had to deal with numerous matters relating to accounts while he was a Secretary in the Secretariat and also as a Dewan Peishkar. In fact, every officer of the Secretariat has to deal with several account matters daily.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know why one of the Peishkars should not be asked to do the work with a small honorarium?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, that will do very well; but it means more cost.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Without prejudice to his own work?

PRESIDENT: You want to eat the bread and keep it?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): But the Dewan Peishkar will not find time to do this work. Whoever is deputed to do this work will have to be a full-time officer unless his normal work is very light

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What should be the minimum period of service that a Tahsildar will have to put in to undertake this work? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion, and it will vary with individual officers. A capable and hard working Tahsildar may pick up experience in a very short time. But a lazy Tahsildar will take a life-time and yet not be fit for this work.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I also support the motion brought forward by Mr. Kumara Pillai. I am not at all satisfied with the arguments advanced from the other side for boiling down the *Land Revenue Manual* which was published by one of the very best of our revenue officers in the State. The purpose for which it is intended to be done is the Revenue Test examination. If that is so, those who only want a text for the examination can have a small handbook which could be easily produced. If it is for any other purpose, then I think that a Tahsildar or a junior officer, drawing Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 will not be able to do it. It appears to me that this work which requires a large amount of knowledge of revenue matters both theoretical and practical as well as the ability to compile is not a very easy thing to do. Therefore, I do not think that the appointment of a Tahsildar to do it is the proper thing to do. I think, a superior officer without prejudice to his own work may be asked to do the work and if necessary an honorarium may be paid to him. We all know that Peishkars have been recently relieved of their Devaswom and magisterial work. Therefore they can do this work without prejudice to their ordinary work. Probably, an officer may take a long time if specially deputed. Even of that I am not sure, because if you are going to put this work on an ordinary Tahsildar, however experienced he may be, he is sure to take a longer time than a Peishkar would take even along with his ordinary duties. So that

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

we shall be not only saving a good deal of money by putting this work on a more competent officer with an honorarium, but we shall also have the satisfaction of getting a work which would be more useful.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*). ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളും മിസ്റ്റർ രാമസുബ്ബയ്യരുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും കേട്ടതിൽ പിന്നീടും എനിക്ക് ആദ്യം തോന്നിയ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ യാതൊരു വ്യത്യാസവുമുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അതായത് ഇവിടെ ഇത്രയും രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കി ഒരു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ വയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ രാമസുബ്ബയ്യരോട്, ഈ മാനുവൽ എഴുതിതീർക്കുന്നതിന് എത്ര കാലം വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്ന ചോദിച്ചതിന് അദ്ദേഹം ശരിയായി മറുപടി പറയുന്നില്ല. വേല ചെയ്യുന്നവരാണെങ്കിൽ കുറച്ചു സമയവും മടിയന്മാരാണെങ്കിൽ അത്രയും കൂടുതൽ സമയവും വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നാണ് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നത്.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is not what I said. What Mr. K. P Raman Pillai asked was what time a Tahsildar would take to pick up experience which would fit him to cope with the work. I said a diligent Tahsildar would take a short time, while a lazy Tahsildar might even take a life-time.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Now that Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar is in possession of the House, I wish to ask him a question.

PRESIDENT: He is only answering, rather explaining to Mr. Kumara Pillai what he said before.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Then I shall reserve my question.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരു നല്ല തഹശീൽദാരെ കിട്ടിയില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഈ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വളരെ കാലതാമസം വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല അദ്ദേഹവും ജോലി പ്രത്യേകമായി പഠിക്കേണ്ടതായും വരുന്നതാണ്. സിക്രട്ടറിയേററിൽ തക്കതായ ഒരാളാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ രാമസുബ്ബയ്യർ എന്ന് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഒരു സൂപ്രണ്ടിനേയും കൊടുത്തു അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഈ ജോലി ഏല്പിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സമയത്തിനും പല ദിവസത്തിനുമുമ്പേ അദ്ദേഹം തീർക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു അതിനു കൂടുതൽ ആദായം കൊടുക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ സൂപ്പർന്യൂമററിയായ വല്ലവരും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയോ അതല്ലാ മററു വല്ലവർക്കും ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കാൻ അത്യാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടി

രിക്കയൊ ചെയ്യുന്നുഎങ്കിൽ ആസംഗതി വേറെയാണ്. ഈ മാനുവൽ എഴുതാനായി സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗം ദുർവ്യയമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, there are officers in the Secretariat who are competent to do this work, but their hands are full. It is, as Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar said, physically impossible for them to do this work along with their current work which is very heavy. As regards utilising the service of Peishkars in the first place, they may not find the time to do the work satisfactorily. Secondly, the idea is that the officer should work directly under the supervision of the Government. He must also take instructions from Government, so that the work cannot be entrusted to one outside the Secretariat.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Was not Mr. Narayanan Pandalai doing the work of compiling *Regulations and Proclamations* while he was in the Secretariat, along with his work in the office?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a different matter. It was a work of mere compilation.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Have not cabinet ministers found time to produce great works of literature while they were in office?

PRESIDENT: Secretaries to Government are not cabinet ministers. (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This is not a work of literature. You cannot find scope for much of literary grace in a work of this kind.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is this not easier than pure literary work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That depends upon one's taste.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will not the Manual have to be revised again in the Secretariat?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It will have to be done under the supervision of Government. The arrangement proposed by the other side of the House is not satisfactory. It is purely a work of abridgment and it does not imply reflection upon Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar. It should be a work of condensed information for practical students.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it not a mechanical work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. It is not a mechanical work. The whole thing has to be arranged subject-war. All the subsequent Government orders have to be read and analysed and arranged. The whole thing has to be done very carefully.

[Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why not give the work to a Secretary who has taken pension?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It has to be done under the supervision of Government. It cannot be done on the piece-work system.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): If the translation of the Council proceedings could be done, could not this also be done by a retired officer under the supervision of the Chief Secretary or the Revenue Secretary?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not analagous to the translation of the Council proceedings. The Council proceedings and the abridgment of the manual are two quite different things. But if the House does not like the proposal, I do not insist on it. (*Hear, hear.*)

PRESIDENT: Government accept the cut. Is that what you mean?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. The officer will also go, I suppose.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

The motion was then withdrawn.

Motions 174 to 176.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

174. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

175. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for upkeep of motor car by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

176. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for remuneration to Malayalam and Tamil piece-work translators.

Motion 177.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

177. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,200 for remuneration to Malayalam and Tamil piece-work translators.

அஸிஸ்டெண்டு டிரான்ஸ்லேட்டரை நியமிக்கிறது (Council Proceedings) கௌன்ஸில் பிரஸீடிங்ஸ் தர்ஜுமை செய்கிறதற்கும்

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary Government*): I do not hear.

PRESIDENT: உறக்கப்பேசவேண்டும்.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): அஸிஸ்டெண்டு டிரான்ஸிலேட்டரை நியமிக்கிறது Council

Proceedings) கௌன்ஸிலில் ப்ரொஸிடிங்ஸ் தர்ஜிமைசெய்கிறதற்கும் பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு பரிசோதனை செய்கிறதற்கும் என்று ஸிக்கிரட்டரி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். மலயாளம் தர்ஜிமை செய்கிறதற்கு ஒரு (Head Translator) ஹெட்டிரான்ஸிலெற்றற்கு ஒரு வருஷமொன்றுக்கு ரூ. 2400 ம் ஒரு அஸிஸ்றெண்டு டிரான்ஸ்லெற்றர்க்கு ஒரு வருஷமொன்றுக்கு ரூ. 1100 ம் மலயாளமும் தமிழும் தர்ஜிமை செய்கிறதற்கு பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு (Piece work) ஏற்படுத்தி அதுக்கு வருஷமொன்றுக்கு ரூ. 3200 கொடுக்கிறதாக பட்ஜெற்றில் (Budget) காணப்படுகிறது. இது ரெம்பவும் கஷ்டமான ஏற்பாடு. அதாவது மலயாளம் தர்ஜிமை வகைக்கு வருஷமொன்றுக்கு ரூ. 3500 சம்பளத்தில் ஸ்திரலாவணமாக ரண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களும் தவிர பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு வகையிலும் கூடுதல் ஒரு பங்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டிவருகிறது. மலயாளத்துக்கு ஒரு டிரான்ஸ்லெற்றரை கொண்டு முடியாவிட்டால் கூடுதல் ஒரு டிரான்ஸ்லெற்றர்க்கு ரூ. 1100ம்தமிழில் ஒரு டிரான்ஸ்லெற்றர்க்கு ரூ. 1100 ம் கொடுத்தாலும் கெவர்மென்றுக்கு நஷ்டமில்லை. அதுகொண்டு திகயாவிட்டால் பீஸ்ஒர்க்குக்கு ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிற ரூ. 3200 ல் ஒரு தமிழ் டிரான்ஸலெற்றர்க்கு சம்பளம் வருஷமொன்றுக்கு ரூ. 1100 ம் போக உள்ள ரூ. 2200-ல் பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு ரூ. 1000 செலவாக்கினாலும் பின்னும் கவர்மென்றுக்கு ரூ. 1100 லாபம் கிடைக்கும். அல்லாமல் தமிழ் தர்ஜிமை செய்கிறதற்கு பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு மச்சு காலெஜு (College) தமிழ் பண்டிதர்க்கு கொடுத்தால் அவருடைய ஜோலிக்கும் பீஸ்ஒர்க்கு வேலைக்கும் ரெம்பவும் தடஸ்தப்படுக்கவும் அதிகப்படும். தமிழும் மலயாளத்தைப்போலவே இந்த சம்ஸ்தானத்தில் ஒரு முக்கியமான பாஷை என்றே நினைக்கவேண்டியது.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I did not follow what he said.

PRESIDENT: The gist of his speech is that, instead of allotting Rs. 3,200 under the piece-work system, it would be well if a full-time Tamil Translator is appointed.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The amount provided is for trans'ating Council Proceedings as also for the Tamil translation of other matter. There would be no necessity for a full-time Tamil translator. As I said, if an Assistant is appointed he would do some of the Tamil translator's work also. The major portion of the allotment is not meant for Tamil translation but for payment to scholars whom the Government propose to engage for translating the Council proceedings on the piece-work system.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 179.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:—

178. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,104 for hot weather charges.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Motion 180.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:—

180. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,51,850 for Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 100.

My object is to draw the attention of Government to the absolute necessity of making the Secretariat more elastic than what it is to-day. The practice now is that once you become a Secretary you are a Secretary for ever. This system has got several disadvantages. For one thing, it does not give ample scope for choice from the various departments of the State, and the men in the Secretariat happen not to possess such varied items of information which the officers of the Secretariat ought to possess. I would therefore suggest for the consideration of the House whether it will not be possible to fix a number of posts beyond a particular salary, as is being done in Mysore and other places, that is to say, in the Secretariat, beyond Rs. 150 the number of places should be fixed and their salary also should be fixed, so that the Head of the Administration may be free to recruit officers from the various departments of the State, irrespective of what pay they happen to draw at the time of recruitment. It is better for all the officers concerned, *i. e.*, the executive officers as well as the Secretaries. There should be a general flow from the Secretariat to the Executive and from the Executive to the Secretariat as was the case in olden days. We find that many of these officers, who as official members sit along with us in the Council, have at one time or other in their official career served both in the Secretariat as well as in the Executive branches and none of them could be said to have been the worse for this kind of multifarious experience.

I should also impress upon the Government the necessity of strengthening the Secretariat and improving its efficiency. Of course, at the time when we discuss the motion on the allowance for the Legislative Council, we shall have occasion to refer to this matter over again, *i. e.*, the necessity for increasing the efficiency of the Secretariat as a whole, so that they may be more prepared and less ignorant on matters that relate to the discharge of the work of the Council; and in doing so, I would particularly emphasise the necessity of giving them better pay and encouragement, particulary the Legislative Section. This House has had the opportunity of coming in contact with those members of the Secretariat who deal with the legislative work; and I believe I shall be voicing the sentiments of my friends on this side of the House when I say that these persons are doing very hard work and they require better encouragement as well as additional relief. Compared to the work turned out by the Legislative Section in Madras and other places, I think our Legislative Section would compare favourably with the work turned out there both in point of expedition and efficiency.

I would also mention in this connection that since there has been so much talk about Tamil translation, it will be a mistake to spend money in translating matters into Tamil and getting them printed in the Gazette, as the language of the State is Malayalam.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Is there any rule or order of Government fixing Malayalam as the only State language in Travancore or is it a mere matter of opinion?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, there is. The Criminal Procedure Code is a statute where it is stated that the language of the courts is Malayalam. So also, the Civil Procedure Code which states that the accepted State language is Malayalam.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Is the member aware that Tamil was adopted as the State language in so far as the medium of correspondence in account matters was concerned 30 years ago?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLI (*Quilon*): I am only 36 (*laughter*, so that I do not know what happened 30 years ago.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): The Tamil-speaking population should be compelled to speak in Malayalam?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Certainly not. Every one would learn Malayalam.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): My contention is that every Malayalam-knowing man should learn Tamil. Suppose he has to go to Shencottah—

PRESIDENT: You can only put a question and not make a statement.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Take the British Parliament. You would not see anybody talking in French or German or other languages. The Prime Minister was a Welshman, for a long time. He would not be allowed to talk in Welsh, but we find the curious phenomenon of people talking in all sorts of languages in a Council like this. (*Laughter.*) I submit therefore that it would be waste of public money to get these matters translated and printed in Tamil.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Is he aware that when the Jamabanadi Department was in existence, the candidates for offices in the Jamabandi Department were expected to understand both Tamil and Malayalam?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That probably was in the transition stages when the land had not settled down.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know whether he opposes the proceedings being translated into Tamil?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, I do. The tendency is growing stronger. I find there is provision made in the education budget for converting Malayalam into Tamil schools.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Does Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai think—

PRESIDENT: You may speak after Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has sat down.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): If Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai proposes not to have any Tamil translation, because it would cost money, I propose not to have any translation, because, if all people know English, where is the necessity for translation?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I quite agree with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I wish to put in a word on behalf of Tamil, because the importance of it has been underrated. (A voice "No, no.")

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): The Tamil-speaking population according to the Census is 6,25,000 in Travancore—no negligible minority. It forms about a sixth of the total population. I know that, as a matter of fact, for some years past, Malayalam has been allowed to steal a march over Tamil in some respects. Of course, I do not deny that Malayalam is spoken by the largest area of population in Travancore, but next to Malayalam, certainly Tamil is spoken largely. If the area of the Tamil-speaking population is not to be considered a criterion in regard to the importance of the language, then I say that as far as importance of the language is concerned, the people who speak Tamil as their vernacular in this country stands second to none in importance. Tamil stands second to Malayalam only in the area of the speaking population. I suppose the Government will admit that a language spoken by 6,25,000 people in Travancore is not to be cornered by any sort of verbal argument.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I have to put a question. Will he be able to say what percentage of the Tamil-speaking population know Malayalam?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I do not know how that is relevant to my subject. As I have already submitted, Tamil is spoken by 6,25,000 people in Travancore, and to say that Malayalam is the State language is merely a fiction. It has been kept up by some Malayalam patriots of the country who have resort to special pleading for the cause of Malayalam. As far as the importance of the language is concerned, Tamil is not second to Malayalam.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have to correct a misapprehension. I never intended to underrate the Tamil language. It is a very important and rich language.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): The Tamil-speaking taxpayer has a right by the very fact that he pays tax to Government as much as the Malayalam-speaking tax payers of the country.

He has an indisputable right for asking for a translation of the Government proceedings in his own language. He has a right at least to the translation of all the most important Government proceedings. In that way, I say that Tamil is not to be regarded as next in importance to Malayalam. As a language, it has to be treated on a par with Malayalam. That is all I have got to say for the present in this matter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I shall be failing in my duty to myself and to the Council, if I keep quiet on this occasion. (*Laughter.*) I have been speaking rather frequently to-day. But here is a supreme moment when, if I have any energy left in me, I must stand up again and speak. (*Laughter.*)

There is first of all the spectacle that Malayalies are standing up in defence of Malayalam and Tamilians are standing up in defence of Tamil. Both are excellent languages. Malayalies and Tamilians have been living in Travancore from time immemorial and have been moving like brothers. His Highness the Maha Raja does not make any difference between Malayalies and Tamilians, so far as civic rights are concerned. Ours is a civilised Government and we have accepted the principle of religious neutrality, whatever be the State religion. Government have accepted the principle that certain depressed classes require help at the hands of Government. Sir, if there is any matter on which men's passions are expected to go high, it is on the question of language. I am very sorry that any unhealthy cleavage should be created in this Council. I am sure Mr. Raman Pillai did not seriously contend that Tamil should be placed in a position of disadvantage. He has probably stressed the importance of Malayalam a little further; and in doing so, he might have unconsciously underrated the importance of Tamil; and Mr. Lakshmana Pillai who is a very good Tamil scholar must have mustered up his whole strength to make this vigorous appeal. As a matter of fact, in considering a question of this importance, I am against continuing the discussion in this animated manner. It is my personal view and I entreat my friends to take a friendly course so that we may reap the full benefits of the union which we are having in general matters so far as this Council is concerned. As I said, Tamilians and Malayalies are living like brothers in Travancore and there is absolutely no necessity why this question should be raked up. If I have offended any of my friends, I wish they would excuse me.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am neither Tamilian nor Malayali. (*Laughter.*) So I think I can take an impartial view of this question. As pointed out by Mr. Velu Pillai, Mr. Raman Pillai never meant to say anything against Tamil, which, as said just now, is a language which has a very rich literature. I am sure that, when the University question is considered, Tamilians not only here but in Tinnevelly also will come into this University. Mr. Lakshmana Pillai's request is, I think, a very sound one. But the only question is whether as asked by Mr. Madhava Variar, Tamil people understand Malayalam.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

If they do, the extra expenditure may be saved. If they do not, I think, there must be a separate Tamil translation for the Tamilians.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The object of this motion by Mr. Raman Pillai, was to draw the attention of the House mainly to the necessity for strengthening the Secretariat and adding to its efficiency. In regard to that matter, I wish to make a few observations. It has been observed by the late Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair, that the Secretariat forms the *sanctum sanctorum* of the public service and it needs no reminder from any quarter to emphasise how necessary it is that the Secretariat should be efficiently manned. Although it has been observed in this House on more than one occasion that the Secretariat does not shape the policy of the administration, the Secretaries concerned do exercise and should exercise a very large influence upon the Head of the Administration in regard to the shaping of its policy. It is therefore eminently desirable that the Secretariat should always maintain a very high standard of efficiency. In connection with that, the test of recruitment to the Secretariat cannot but be too severe. In recruiting Secretaries, it ought to be the policy on the part of Government that seniority alone should not be the test, but efficiency and merit should form the sole criterion for promotion to the higher grades in the Secretariat. I may be pardoned when I say—I do not mean any reflection—I doubt very much whether the Secretaries render to the Dewan of the State as much assistance as he is entitled to from the officers in the Secretariat. I should consider that, if there is any defect, it is due to the fault in the system of recruitment. It is only to emphasise that aspect of the matter that I make these observations.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I have an identical motion. I am not pressing that. I wish to speak now.

PRESIDENT: I do not know whether it is identical. But you may speak.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, my object in bringing forward this motion is to make use of this occasion to refer to certain matters relating to the Legislative Council which the Dewan is authorised to order, *e. g.*, the fixing up of the time and place of the Legislative Council meetings. This year we had only—

PRESIDENT: We are not dealing with the Legislative Council now.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is a motion further down in regard to the Legislative Council.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I leave that matter. I wish to speak about the interpellations and answers. That is done by the Secretariat. So I thought I could speak on that subject.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I suggest that we now adjourn?

PRESIDENT: Won't you like to hear the Chief Secretary's reply? The motion has been talked out. I will ask Mr. Raman Pillai first to have his say.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): After hearing the Chief Secretary, I will withdraw my motion.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I agree with Messrs. Raman Pillai and G. Paramesvaran Pillai in considering that we should have the pick of the service in the Secretariat. (*Hear, hear.*) Mr. Raman Pillai was saying that there should be a free flow of officers from the Secretariat to the Executive and *vice versa*. That is exactly what is being done. You will find that most of the officers in the Secretariat are men who have had experience in the mofussil. As regards the liberty of the Head of the Administration to choose the best men, even now he is having that liberty. We have been taking men from the revenue line, judicial line and even from the Excise Department. As regards the strengthening of the Secretariat, whether it should be strengthened on particular lines cannot be decided on until some experience is gained of the working of the present system. The House can rest assured that everything will be done to increase its efficiency.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether, so long as the salaries attached to the posts of Secretaries continue as at present, it is possible for the Head of the Administration to indent upon the services of Peishkars, for example, to work as Secretaries?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The pay of the Peishkars cannot be assimilated to that of the Secretaries. The pay of the Secretaries is more or less similar to that of First Grade Division Assistants.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): So that the recruitment has to be confined to the grade of Division Assistants?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not necessarily.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Won't it be desirable to take senior officers of the P. W. D., Forest, etc., to the Secretariat as Secretaries?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are always at liberty to choose the best men available.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The Council adjourned at 5-23 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. next day.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 9th August, 1928.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-five of the Clock with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpollator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Alleppey Canal.

112. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the length of the Alleppey canal which has already been completed and that which still remains to be completed;

(*b*) the total cost of the portion already completed;

(*c*) how many years more it will take to complete the remaining portion and the probable amount that will have to be spent on the same; and

(*d*) whether the unfinished portion is being annually maintained?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is more than one canal at Alleppey. It is not possible to answer the question unless the member specifies the canal in respect of which the information is wanted.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether the Alleppey Commercial canal is not usually known as the Alleppey canal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether besides the Vadai canal and the Alleppey-Shertallai canal, any other canal is under improvement.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

Land revenue due to Sripadam and Kilimanur Edavagai.

113. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following particulars regarding the work of the Chirayinkil Tahsildar:

(*a*) whether he issues demand notices for realising land revenue from seven *pakuthies* of the Chirayinkil taluk belonging to the Sripadam and two *pakuthies* belonging to the Kilimanur *Edavagai*;

(*b*) the Regulations under which he does this;

(*c*) whether it is not in accordance with the Sirkar *ayacut* accounts that he issues demand notices and realises tax;

(*d*) when that *ayacut* was prepared;

(*e*) whether there is any difference in the rates of commutation of paddy assessment into money in the different *pakuthies* of the Chirayinkil taluk;

(*f*) if so, what the difference is and what is the reason for the same;

(*g*) the usual rate of commutation in the case of paddy assessment;

(*h*) whether the Tahsildar is empowered to realise the revenue at a rate different from that specified in the *ayacut*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Revenue Recovery Regulation, I of 1068, in the case of Sripadam, and the Rent Recovery Regulation, IV of 1068, in the case of the Kilimanur *Edavagai*.

(*c*) No. The demand notices are issued and tax collected according to the *ayacut* accounts of the Sripadam and the Kilimanur *Edavagai*.

(*d*) At the time of settlement.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) There are 31 *pakuthies* in the taluk, of which 22 are Sirkar *pakuthies*, 7 *pakuthies* belong to the Sripadam and 2 *pakuthies* of the Kilimanur *Edavagai*. In the Sirkar *pakuthies*, paddy tax is commuted at 11 chackrams per *para* for one-half of the paddy tax and at 6 chackrams per *para* for the remaining one-half. In the *pakuthies* belonging to the Sripadam, one-fourth of the paddy tax is recovered at a commutation rate of 6 chackrams per *para* of paddy, another one-fourth at 11 chackrams per *para* and the remaining one-half in the shape of paddy. In the *pakuthies* of the Kilimanur Edavagai, one-fourth of the paddy tax is realised in money at 6 chackrams per *para* of paddy and the remaining three-fourths in the shape of paddy. The reason for the difference is that the revenue from the non-Sirkar *pakuthies* goes to the Sripadam or the Kilimanur *Edavagai*.

(*g*) The answer to this part of the question is contained in the answer to part (*f*).

(*h*) The answer is in the negative.

Exploitation of Timber.

114. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the revenue derived from the exploitation of timber outside the reserves in 1096 and 1097;

(*b*) the expenditure incurred for the purpose during each year; and

(*c*) the revenue derived from the exploitation of timber from the reserved forests and the expenditure therefor during each of the above two years?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) Classified statistitics are not maintained separately in respect of timber exploited from reserves and unreserves.

Teak sold by Government.

115. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the stock of teak as in the books of the Forest Department on the 16th Edavam, 1097, was sold to a Bombay Firm at half the present tariff rate;

(*b*) what quantity in each class was sold as aforesaid;

(*c*) what would be the class-war expenditure incurred by Government on each cubic foot of teak sold as above;

(*d*) how long the above stock was lying unsold;

(*e*) the quantity of teak sold last year at the concessional rate of 75 per cent. of the tariff rate for local consumption; and

(*f*) the rates per cubic foot for each class realised in auction sales at the Government depôts in 1094 and 1095?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) 13,124 cubic feet of first class teak, 50,942 cubic feet of second class teak and 49,391 cubic feet of third class teak.

(*c*) The working charges on these logs are generally 50 per cent. of the sale proceeds, or 4 to 9 annas per cubic foot whichever is less.

(*d*) The stock was lying unsold for over five years.

(*e*) the quantity of teak sold at the concessional rate last year was 15,843 cubic feet.

(*f*) The average rates per cubic foot for each class of teak realised in auction sales were as follow:—

Class.		*Year and rate.* 1094			1095		
		Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P
Teak, 1st class	...	2	6	8	2	8	9
Teak, 2nd class	...	1	15	1	1	15	10
Teak, 3rd class	...	1	9	4	1	6	6

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

Teak purchased from the Forest Department by other Departments.

116. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of teak purchased by Government Departments like the P. W. D. and the Maramat, from the depôts of the Forest Department during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097? If there was a decrease in 1096 and 1097, how is it accounted for?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The quantities of teak timber purchased from the depôts of the Forest Department by other departments during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097 were as follow:

1095—30,432·685 cubic feet.
1096—60,691·447 cubic feet.
1097—40,759·031 cubic feet.

The answer to the latter part of the question does not arise.

Purchase of Teak from Private Agencies.

117. Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*):
(*a*) Did the Departments of Government like the P. W. D. and the Maramat buy teak from private merchants in 1097?

(*b*) If so, have the Government sanctioned such purchases?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), the question does not arise

Memorial of the General Secretary, Sackaravar Sangham.

118. MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether final orders have been passed by them on the suggestions made in the memorial submitted to Government on the 4th November, 1918, by the General Secretary of the South Travancore Sackaravar Sangham?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): May I know what the final orders passed by Government are?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The memorial was recorded.

Fee Concessions in Colleges.

119. MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether fee concessions are allowed in the Government Colleges in Trivandrum for the Sambavar students, irrespective of their religious faith?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether students belonging to the depressed classes and the students belonging to the Mahomedan community are granted the same fee concessions in H. H. the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Mahomedans alone are allowed half-fee concession in His Highness the Maha Raja's College.

Employment of Excise Staff on the Frontier.

120. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the large Excise staff posted on the frontier is not specially intended to prevent malpractices in regard to toddy smuggling also?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise staff posted at the frontier is bound to discharge with equal alacrity all the duties devolving on it under the Abkari, Tobacco, Salt and Customs Regulations and Rules.

Abkari Regulation.

121. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any amendment to Section 28 of the Abkari Regulation has been recommended by the Excise Commissioner, and if so, when?

(*b*) In what stage is the question of amendment now?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No such recommendation has been made by the Excise Commissioner.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) the question does not arise.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to say whether the Law Member did not promise during the discussion of the motion for the reduction of Sub-Inspectors that the question of the amendment of Section 28 of the Abkari Regulation was being considered.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He might have said so. I do not remember.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not Section 28 say that an Abkari Officer drawing a salary of Rs. 20 and above is entitled to search houses? Does not that Regulation authorise Petty Officers who draw Rs. 20 and above up to Rs. 28, numbering about 150, to search houses?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is the law. That is Section 28. But a Petty Officer should be appointed as an Abkari Officer.

[Mr. A. Hoogwerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether the law has been amended. I wish to know whether that Section of the law does not entitle a Petty Officer drawing Rs. 20 and above to search houses in the absence of an amendment of the Regulation.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Petty Officers have to be empowered under the Regulation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can any notification override any departmental circular or the section of a regulation without its being amended in this Council.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

Audit and Appropriation Report.

122. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether an annual Audit and Appropriation Report is being prepared in the Financial Secretariat, and if so, from what year?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to order:

(i) the reports for the years 1096 and 1097 being published in the Gazette at once and further reports being so published regularly as soon as they are prepared; and

(ii) copies of the same being supplied to the members of the Legislative Council?

(*c*) If no such report has been prepared till now, will the Government be pleased to order its preparation every year in future and its publication in the Gazette?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) A report called the Audit and Appropriation Report was prepared by the Account Officer in 1097, on the accounts of the year 1096 and was issued to Heads of Departments. Government having recently ordered the preparation of two reports, one called the Audit Report and the other the Appropriation Report, two separate reports have been prepared by the Account Officer on the accounts of 1097. The Appropriation Report has been printed. The Audit Report is in the Press.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government do not deem it necessary to publish the reports in the Gazette. Copies of the Appropriation Report relating to the accounts from 1097 have been supplied to the members of the Council.

College Admissions.

123. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applicants during the current academic year, to each of the groups in the Intermediate and B. A. classes;

(b) the number admitted into each group before the orders of Government regarding admission were issued;

(c) the number admitted into each group after the above orders;

(d) the number of applications rejected and the grounds therefor; and

(e) the total number now in each group in the Intermediate and B. A. classes, the figures for the Junior and Senior classes being given separately?

MR S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A statement* giving the information required by the member is laid on the table.

Debentures issued by the South Indian Railway Company and the Agreement between Government and the Secretary of State for India.

124. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(1) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the present value, in the English market, of the several debentures issued by the South Indian Railway Company on account of the Shencottah-Quilon railway; and

(b) the dates on which these loans fell due?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the agreement between the Travancore Government and the Rt. Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India in the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*):

(1) (a) The Government have no information.

(b) The loans now in force, the dates on which each fell due last, and particulars regarding renewal are given below:—

Loans.	Date on which loans fell due.	Particulars regarding renewal.
(i) £ 29,517 at 6½ per cent.	3-1-1923	Renewed for 3 years at 4½ per cent.
(ii) £ 49,149 at 6½ per cent.	3-7-1922	Renewed for 2 years at 4½ per cent.
(iii) £ 2,87,125 at 4½ per cent.	15-8-1921	Renewed for 2 years at 6 per cent.

It may be stated that these loans are not separate issues made specifically for the Quilon-Shencottah Railway, but form part of the debentures issued by the South Indian Railway Company aggregating to £ 15,10,000 for the construction of the entire Travancore line, and not

* *Vide* Appendix I—page 510.

[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

merely the Shencottah-Quilon section of it. Under the terms of the Travancore contract, this Government cannot claim to discharge their liability by paying off the debentures. We may, by making special arrangements, purchase these debentures as they fall due; but in that case they will have either to be renewed or we shall have to get cash in repayment. The liability will continue till 1945 when the principal contract will fall due. Thus the purchase of the bonds will merely mean that the Sinking Fund will be invested in Railway bonds instead of in Government of India securities. The latter investment is to be preferred for the following reasons:

(i) They are long term loans and not therefore subject to fluctuations of interest which the Railway bonds will be subject to at every time of renewal.

(ii) They do not involve the transfer of funds to London and *vice versa* which transfers may involve risk of loss in exchange.

(2) There is no formal agreement between the Travancore Government and the Secretary of State for India. The following contracts entered into between the Secretary of State and the South Indian Railway Company relate to the construction and working of the Travancore Branch of the South Indian Railway:—

1. The Principal contract of 1890.
2. The Travancore contract of 1901.
3. The Rate of Exchange contract of 1903.
4. The revised contract of 1910.

Government regret that they cannot lay copies of the contracts on the table.

Interest paid by Government on the Shencottah-Quilon Railway Loans.

125. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount paid by the State as interest on the Shencottah-Quilon Railway loans during the last six years and the rates of interest in each year for each species of loans?

(2) (*a*) What is the nature of the advance of Rs. 76 lakhs made by the Rt. Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India?

(*b*) Is it a mere cash loan or does it form part of the debentures?

(*c*) When is it repayable?

(*d*) What is its present rate of interest?

(*e*) What was the rate of interest guaranteed when the advance was made?

(*f*) Was there any variation in the rate at any time during the intervening period?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (1) Information is available only for five years from 1918-1919. A statement* containing this information is laid on the table.

(2) (*a*) The advances made by the Secretary of State for India at the end of the official year ending 31st March, 1923, amounted to Rs. 77,13,424, including an advance of Rs. 1,14,992 made during the year for rolling stock, etc., for open line works. The details of the advances are as given below:—

(i) For construction works ...Rs. 61,32,092

This is on account of the portion of debentures paid off by the Secretary of State for India.

(ii) For open line works. ...Rs. 15,81,332

This is on account of advances made for the purchase of rolling stock, etc., for lines opened for traffic.

(*b*) It is an advance in cash and does not form part of the debentures.

(*c*) It is repayable by the South Indian Railway Company at the time at which the liabilities on the Shencottah-Quilon Railway are dischargeable, *viz.*, in 1945.

(*d*) The present rate of interest is 3½ per cent.

(*e*) Under the agreement, advances made by the Secretary of State for India to the South Indian Railway Company bear interest at 3½ per cent.

(*f*) No.

Liability of Government on the Shencottah-Quilon line.

126. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it was not for the Shencottah-Quilon line that a further liability of Rs. 13¾ lakhs was incurred during 1097, on account of the purchase of rolling stock?

(*b*) Is no amount allotted annually for depreciation purposes? If so, what was the necessity for incurring this further liability? What is the amount actually expended on account of depreciation in each of the last six years?

(*c*) What is the nature of this further liability? Is it in the form of debentures or a cash loan issued by the Rt. Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India? What is the rate of interest in this case? When is it repayable?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Railway Company do not provide any allotment for depreciation purposes. Charges for repairs and renewals of existing machinery, etc., are debited to the revenue account of the railway, while those for the purchase of new rolling stock are issued and debited to the capital account of the railway, such capital being raised either by issue of debentures by the Railway Company or by advances made by the Secretary of State.

* *Vide* Appendix II—page 511.

[MR. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

(c) Purchase of new rolling stock. The amount for this was advanced to the Company by the Secretary of State. For the latter portion of the question, the member is referred to the reply given to question No. 152 (179) (b), (c) and (e).

Discharge of the Liability of Government in re. Shencottah-Quilon line.

127. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what precautions they have taken to be in a position to redeem the liability on account of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway on the due date, *i. e.*, in 1945?

(b) Is the provision now being made in the shape of a sinking fund sufficient for the purpose?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the amounts allotted annually towards the sinking fund ever since its creation?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount realisable in 1945 from their sinking fund investments?

(e) What is the present value of the two securities in which the Sinking Fund is invested?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (a) A Sinking Fund has been created as early as 1912 for the purpose of discharging the liability in 1945.

(b) Yes.

(c) Till recently, the annual contribution towards the Fund was B. Rs. 2 lakhs at 3½ per cent. compound interest. But recently, the contribution has been reduced to S. Rs. 1,25,000 per annum for the following reasons:—

(i) The interest has been raised from 3½ per cent. to 5 per cent.

(ii) The investments out of the fund in Government of India securities yield interest at 5 per cent. and 6 per cent.

(d) The Sinking Fund with the amount realised by investing it in securities yielding not less than 5 per cent. is expected to amount to Rs. 134 lakhs in 1945.

(e) 5 per cent. Bonds 1945-55.	Rs. 96-6-0 repayable at par.
6 per cent. Bonds 1931.	Rs. 103-4-0 to 104-4-0 repayable at par.

Besides these two securities, pro-notes to the face value of Rs. 8 lakhs of the five per cent. loan of 1929—47 have also been recently purchased for the Sinking Fund at the rate of Rs. 91-6 per cent. net.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): In respect to the answer to part (d), may I take it the whole of the Sinking Fund is repayable by the year 1945?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is repayable at the option of the Government of India, and not necessarily repayable.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Supposing the Government of India does not care to pay that money, how is the liability to be discharged out of the Sinking Fund?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have always the liberty to dispose of them in the market.

Investment of Government Surpluses.

128. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the exact dates on which their surplus funds investments were made in the several securities?

(*b*) Have any of these securities been since renewed? If so, when?

(*c*) When do these securities become payable?

(*d*) What is the amount earned by way of interest from these investments during 1098?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The following are the investments made by the Government out of the surplus funds:—

(1) Bh. Rs. 12,00,600 in 3 per cent. loan of 1896-97.

(2) Bh. Rs. 38,91,100 in 3½ per cent. loan of 1879.

(3) Bh. Rs. 15,00,000 in 6 per cent. loan of 1930.

(4) Bh. Rs. 10,00,000 in 5½ per cent. war bonds of 1925.

Items (1) and (2) are not repayable and no definite information is available in regard to the exact dates on which the investments were made. It is however seen that the investments date from so far back as 1036 M. E. Items Nos. (3) and (4) are terminable loans. No. (3) was purchased in September 1920 and No. (4) in June 1918.

(*b*) The above investments have not been renewed at any time.

(*c*) The report of the 3 per cent. and 3½ per cent. securities cannot be claimed by the holders. The terminable loans are repayable in 1930 and 1925 respectively.

(*d*) The annual interest on the investments amounts to Br. Rs. 3,17,206-8-0.

Funds for the Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway.

129. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state how they intend providing funds for the proposed Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The survey of the line is now proceeding. The question of providing funds for the construction of the railway need be taken up only if and when the construction of the line is sanctioned.

(*b*) The amount left undisbursed at the end of Edavam, 1098, is Rs. 7,32,000 on works. It is not possible until the year's accounts are closed to say what the present unspent amount is.

P. W. D. Budget Allotment for 1098.

134. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a great portion of the P. W D. budget allotment has not been spent and that urgent orders have been issued to spend the amount before the end of the year and whether works are being rushed through?

(*b*) What percentage of the total allotment for the year under works and communications has been spent—

(i) during Edavam, 1098;
(ii) during Mithunam, 1098; and
(iii) up to the end of Mithunam, 1098?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The member's attention is invited to the answer furnished to part (*a*) of question No. 133. In view of that answer, the second part of the question does not arise. Government have no information that works are being hurriedly executed.

(*b*) The member's classification of expenditure under 'works and communications' is not understood. Hence it is not possible to answer the question.

Appendix I.

Vide Answer to Question No. 123.

Statistics of College admissions for the academic year 1923—1924.

Class & Group.	No. of applications.	No. of applications with group as the second and third choice.	No. selected for admission before the orders of Government were received.	Further No. selected for admission after the orders of Government were received.	Of those selected, the number that joined.	No. of applications refused with reasons.	Total No. in each group now.
Class I							
Group I	177	10	81	40	98	56 (a)(b)	112
II	151	10	32	27	18	95 (a)(b)	59
III A	74	...	51	12	56		61
III B	36	...	17	5	17	5 (c)	19
III C	27	3	58 17 from groups I and II.	6	29		31
Class II							
Group I	2	...	1	...	1	1 (e)	69
II	4	...	...	...	...	4 (f)	28
III A	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
III B	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
III C	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Class III							
Group I	50	16	25	18	20 (A)	7 (d)	17
II A	16	23	26	6	23 (B)	14 (a)	14
II B	127	12	27	39	48	61 (a)(b)	50
V	114	7	100	3	65 (C)	11 (b)(c)	79
VI A	15	1	17	...	13 (D)	1 (g)	10
VI C	27	4	25	31	27	...	28
Class IV							
Group I	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
II A	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
II B	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
V	1	...	...	...	...	1 (f)	66
VI A	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
VI C	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Part I only	1	...	...	1	1	...	6

(a) Want of accommodation.
(b) Some had been selected for the group of their first choice.
(c) Want of qualification for the group applied for.
(d) They had been selected for the group of their first choice.
(e) No reason was given for the desired change of College.
(f) Admissions, to the senior classes, of students who have had their junior courses in other Colleges are made only in special circumstances and when the students could complete their courses in the senior classes in this College.
(g) He was confused with another candidate of the same name who was selected for admission.
(A) 1 was transferred to IIA, 1 to IIB, and 3 afterwards took their transfer certificates to join other Colleges.
(B) 11 afterwards transferred to II B.
(C) 4 afterwards transferred to VI C.
(D) 1 afterwards took his transfer certificate and three were transferred to VI C.

Appendix II.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 125.**

Statement of interest paid by the Government of India on the Shencottah-Quilon Railway Loans.

Debentures.	1918—1919		1919—1920		1920—1921		1921—1922		1922—1923	
	Rate per cent.	Amount.	Rate per cent.	Amount.	Rate per cent.	Amount.	Rate per cent.	Amount.	Rate per cent.	Amount.
		B. Rs.		B. Rs.		B. Rs.		B. Rs.		B. Rs.
£. 29,517 ...	3¾ for 9 months and 3 days.	12.647	4½	16,539	4½ for 9 months and 3 days.	9,668	6¼	27,364	6 for 9 months and 3 days.	22,380
	4½ for 87 days.	4,749	...	...	6½ for 87 days.	4.701			4½ for 87 days.	4,747
Total ...		17,396		16,539		14,369		27,364		27.127
£. 49,149 ...	4½	33.176	4½	27,540	4½ for 3 months and 3 days.	5.201	6¼	45,563	6½ for 3 months and 3 days.	12,672
					6½ for the balance.	23,570			4½ for the balance.	24,930
Total ...	...	33.176	...	27.540		28,771		45.563		37,602
£. 3,69.125 ...	4½	2,49,158	4½ for 4 months and 15 days.	83,869		...		...		
£. 2,87,125 ...	...	...	4½ for 6 months and 46 days.	96,122	4½	1,25,710	4½ for 4 months and 15 days.	64,922	6	2,62,520
							6 for the balance.	1.59,139		
Total ...	...	2,49,158	...	1,79,991		1,25,710		2,24,061		2,62,520

Appendix III.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 130.**

Caste-war statement of admissions into H. H. the Maha Raja's College in 1923.

Class and Group.	Applied.							Selected for admission.							Joined.						
	Brahmins.	Nairs.	Christians.	Ezhavas.	Mahomedans.	Others.	Total.	Brahmins.	Nairs.	Christians.	Ezhavas.	Mahomedans.	Others.	Total.	Brahmins.	Nairs.	Christians.	Ezhavas.	Mahomedans.	Others.	Total.
Class I Group I ...	70	53	26	13	6	9	177	50	38	16	4	6	7	121	44	29	12	4	4	5	98
II ...	24	59	56	6	3	6	154	6	21	24	5	2	1	59	5	21	15	4	2	1	48
IIIA ...	22	26	16	2	6	2	74	16	26	13	2	5	1	63	14	23	11	2	5	1	56
IIIB ...	2	19	1	10	1	3	36	1	12	...	6	...	3	22	1	11	...	4	...	1	17
IIIC ...	2	17	1	6	...	1	27	10	41	2	8	...	3	64	...	21	1	5	...	2	29
Class II Group I ...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
II	...	2	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IIIA ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IIIB ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IIIC ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Class III Group I ...	29	6	11	2	...	2	50	24	6	9	2	...	2	43	11	2	5	1	...	1	20
IIA ...	26	8	8	3	..	1	46	16	4	9	2	...	1	32	12	4	4	2	...	1	23
IIB ..	61	32	27	3	...	4	127	29	17	18	2	..	...	66	23	12	12	1	...	...	48
V ...	19	40	45	5	2	3	114	18	33	42	6	2	2	103	13	18	27	6	1	...	65
VIA ...	2	11	1	1	...	...	15	2	13	1	1	...	...	17	2	10	...	1	...	...	13
VIC ...	...	20	2	2	...	3	27	...	20	2	2	...	3	27	...	21	1	2	...	3	27
Class IV Group I ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IIA ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
IIB ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
V ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VIA ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
VIC ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Part I only ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	.	..	1

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

15 A. HUZUR CUTCHERRY.

Motion 181.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

181. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,57,850 for Huzur cutcherry by Rs. 10.

ഇവിടെയുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും അനുരൂപമായ മേധാവികളെ കിട്ടാതെ ഗവർൺമെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും ഒരുപോലെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിലെ നിയമനങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറു സ്വീകരിച്ചുപോരുന്ന നയത്തിന് ചില ഭേദഗതികൾ വരുത്തുന്നതായാൽ ആ ന്യൂനത പരിഹരിച്ചു കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിലുള്ള ക്ലാർക്കുകളെയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയും പുറമേയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കു ധാരാളം നിയമിച്ചുവരുന്ന പതിവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അവർ പുറമേയുള്ള പലേ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിലും പ്രവേശിച്ചു ഹജൂർ ആഫീസിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചുപോരുന്ന ഭരണപദ്ധതികളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ജോലി ചെയ്കയും, അതിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഭരണനയങ്ങൾക്ക് ഐകരൂപ്യവും കാര്യക്ഷമതയും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ഇന്നലെ ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള മറുപടിയിൽ നിന്നും മനസ്സിലാക്കേണ്ടതു് ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ നിന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പുറമെ അയച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് അതിൽ താൽപര്യമുണ്ടെന്നും അതിലേക്കു ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധികൃതന്മാർ അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ വഴിപ്പെടാതെ ഈ നയത്തിനു അവർ വലുതായ പ്രതിബന്ധമായി നിൽക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ നിന്നും ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾക്ക് അയച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾ അവിടെ എത്തിയാൽ പലേ സംഗതികളിലും ജനങ്ങളുമായി ഇടപെട്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഓരോ ഭരണനയങ്ങളും ജനങ്ങളെ എങ്ങിനെ ബാധിക്കുന്നു എന്നും, അതിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ട ഭേദഗതികൾ എന്താണെന്നും അറിഞ്ഞ് വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ അവർക്കു സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ലയിനിൽ പ്രശസ്തമായ നിലയിൽ വേലചെയ്തു സമർത്ഥന്മാരായിത്തീരുന്നവരെ ഹജൂർ കച്ചേരിയിലെ സിക്രട്ടറിമാരായി എടുക്കുന്നതായാൽ അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരുപോലെ പ്രയോജനകരമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിലെ സിക്രട്ടറിമാരായി മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ നിന്നും

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

എടുക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഏതുവകുപ്പുകളിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നുവൊ ആ വകുപ്പുകളെ പററി കൂടുതലായ അറിവു സമ്പാദിക്കുന്നതിനും പുറമേയുള്ള ഭരണസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾ പരിശീലിക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടിവന്നാൽ അവൎക്കു സൌകൎയ്യമുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഹജൂർ ആഫീസിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുണ്ടായിവരുന്ന സിക്രട്ടറിമാരേയാണ് നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലേയും ഭരണമേധാവികളായി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടത്. സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത മറെറല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽനിന്നും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സാധാരണമായി നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അവരവരുടെ ജോലികൾ ശരിയായി ചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം അതിലേക്കു പുറമേനിന്നും യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ വന്നുചേരുമെന്നുള്ള ബോധം എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

കാൎയ്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കു മാത്രമെ ഉദ്യോഗക്കയററം കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു എന്നുള്ള ബോധം അവരിൽ ജനിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ നയം നിർബന്ധമായി ഗവർൺമെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ പബ്ലിക്ക്സൎവ്വീസിൽ ന്യായമായി ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട കാൎയ്യക്ഷമത നിഷ്പ്രയാസം കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിലേക്കു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി മുൻസിഫ്ന്മാരെ എടുക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. മുൻസിഫ്ജോലി സ്ഥിരമായി വരുന്നതുവരെ അവർ ശരിയായി ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗം സ്ഥിരമായിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ മുമ്പു ജോലിയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ജാഗ്രത കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നത് സാധാരണയാണ്. ഇതിനുള്ള കാരണം അവർ ജോലിചെയ്താലും ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും ന്യായമായ ഉദ്യോഗക്കയററങ്ങൾക്കു യാതൊരു പ്രതിബന്ധവും വരുന്നതല്ലെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസമാണ്. ഇവരിൽ കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠയോടുകൂടി ജോലികൾ ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന വ്യത്യസ്തങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ വിസ്മരിക്കുന്നില്ല. മുൻസിപ്പുകോടതികളിൽ കുടിശികകൾ വൎദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും അഡിഷണൽ മുൻസിപ്പന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയാണ ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പകരം മുൻസിപ്പൻമാരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗക്കയററങ്ങൾ അവർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ജോലികളുടെ ഗുണത്തേയും സംഖ്യയേയും ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുമെന്ന് നിബന്ധമായ ഗവർൺമെൻറുത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുന്നതായാൽ കുടിശികകൾ മിക്കവാറും കഴിയുംവേഗത്തിൽ തീൎന്നുപോകുന്നതാണ്.

ഉദ്യോഗക്കയററങ്ങൾക്ക സവ്വീസിനെ ഗണിക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കാര്യശേഷിയും, കാര്യക്ഷമതയും, പ്രധാനമായി കരുതുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ബോധം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്ക വരുന്നതായാൽ പബ്ളിക്കസവ്വീസിൻെറ ഇന്നത്തെ സ്വരത്തിനു വല്യതായ മാററം വരുന്നതാണ്. മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ നിന്നുമൊ, ഹജൂർആഫീസിൽനിന്നുമോ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ എടുക്കുകയും കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടു സാധാരണയായിവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാത്തതിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ പല ദോഷങ്ങളും കണ്ടുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഉദ്യോഗത്തിൽനിന്നും പിരിയുന്നു എന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ; ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് അനുരൂപനായ ഒരാളെ അതേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഇല്ലെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ ഹജൂർആഫീസിൽ നിന്നുമോ മററുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നുമോ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണു. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാതെ വല്ല പ്രേരണാശക്തിയാലോ, സവ്വീസിനെമാത്രം അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയൊ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും തന്നെ നാലാംതരക്കാരിൽ ഒരാളെ എടുക്കാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നപക്ഷം ആ സ്ഥാനം ദുഷിച്ചുപോകുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു സംശയമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഹജൂർആഫീസിൽ ഒരു സൂപ്രണ്ട് സൂപ്പർന്യൂമററി ആയി വന്നപ്പോൾ അവിടത്തന്നെ ഒരു സ്ഥാനമുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചതിനേക്കാൾ എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമീഷണർജോലികൊടുക്കാമായിരുന്നു. എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പുതിയ രക്തം പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട അത്യാവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. എക്സൈസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കമിഷണരെതന്നെയും, അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമീഷണരന്മാരിലും, ഫസ്റ്റ് ക്ലാസ്സ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരിലും ചിലരേയും ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തയയ്ക്കേണ്ട കാലം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. എക്സൈസ്കമീഷണരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയെ ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ ഒരു ക്ലാക്കായി നിയമിക്കയും, അവിടുന്നു താഹശീൽദാരായി പുറമേ അയയ്ക്കയും ചെയ്തു, താഹശീൽദാരായും, ഹെഡാഫീസ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടായും, ട്രഷററിയിൽ പ്രിവൻറീവ സൂപ്രണ്ടായും എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് ഭരണത്തിൽ വേണ്ട പരിശീലനം കഴിച്ചു വീണ്ടും ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ എടുത്ത് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസിക്രട്ടറിയായും അണ്ടർസിക്രട്ടറിയായും ജോലിചെയ്യിച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീടാണ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ എക്സൈസ കമീഷണരായി നിയമിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു. എക്സൈസ്കമീഷണരായി അദ്ദേഹം എങ്ങനെ ഭരണം നടത്തിപ്പോന്നിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളത് ഇവിടെ പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഇല്ലാത്തതാണു.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഹജൂർ ആഫീസിലുള്ള Development Section നെപ്പററി രണ്ടുവാക്കുകൂടി പറയേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു Development ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ വരവിനെ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ നിന്നും വലുതായ വരവു വർദ്ധനയ്ക്കു വഴിയുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവു പലേ വഴികളിലും ആണ്ടുതോറും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിനെ തടയാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഈ ചിലവു വർദ്ധനയ്ക്കു തക്കവണ്ണം ഈ വഴികളിൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായാൽ താറാവിനെ കൊന്നു പൊൻമുട്ട എടുക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കുന്ന നയമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ആണ്ടുതോറും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ചിലവുകളെ താങ്ങുന്നതിന് Development ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെയാണ് ആശ്രയിക്കേണ്ടത്. അതിൽതന്നെ ഉപ്പ്, എക്സൈസ്, ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിലെ വരവു ക്രമാഗതമായ വഴിയിലല്ലാതെ വർദ്ധിക്കുവാൻ തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. Customs എന്നുള്ള ഇനത്തിലെ വരവു ധാരാളമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരാൻ വഴിയുള്ളതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള Customs വരവിനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ സംശയിക്കേണ്ട അവകാശമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ Development Section ൽ ഒരു വിദഗ്ദ്ധൻവേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് എൻെറ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കരയാളർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ അശേഷം യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. Development Section ൽ പലേ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളും അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ കരയാളരുടെ അഭിപ്രായപ്രകാരം Development Section ൽ വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചുതുടങ്ങുന്നതായാൽ ഏഴുപേരെഎങ്കിലും നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതാണ്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഭരണം നടത്തുന്നതിനു വിദഗ്ദ്ധന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്ന് മിസ്റ്റർ വൻറാസ്സുതന്നെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. നിയമങ്ങളേയും ചട്ടങ്ങളേയും അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൻെറ ആജ്ഞകൾ അനുസരിച്ചും ഭരണം നടത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടേ ഉള്ളു എന്നുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ നയത്തെവരെ ആലോചിച്ചതിൽ പിന്നീടേ ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. മിസ്റ്റർ കരയാളർ പറയുന്നത് അനേക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ അടങ്ങിയതായ ഹജൂർക്കച്ചേരിയിലെ Development Section ൽ പഴമ പരിചയമുള്ള ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മീഷണർ സിക്രട്ടറിയായിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ്. എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പുമായി മാത്രം വളരെക്കാലത്തെ പരിചയമുള്ള ഒരാൾ Development Section ലെ മേധാവിയായി

തിന്നാൽ ആ ആളെക്കൊണ്ടു അവിടെ എന്തുസാധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളത് ഊഹ
ഗോചരമല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പററിഎങ്കി
ലും വല്ല നയങ്ങളും രൂപീകരിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്ന കാര്യംപോലും
സന്നിഗ്ദ്ധാവസ്ഥയിലാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. Customs വരവിനെ
വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അത്യാഗ്രഹത്തോടുകൂടി എക്സൈസ് വകുപ്പി
ലുള്ള ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറു കമ്മിഷണരെ മദ്രാസിലും ബ്രിട്ടീഷുകൊച്ചിലും
അയച്ചു Customs സംബന്ധമായ അവിടത്തെ നടപടികളെ പഠിച്ചുവ
രാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് അയച്ചിരുന്നതായി കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിലേക്കു കുറെ
പ്പണവും ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചിലവാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാം.
ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഒരു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് എക്സൈസ കമ്മിഷണർക്കു
Customs സംബന്ധമായി പുറമെപോയി പഠിച്ചുവരുന്നതിന് അവസരം
കൊടുത്തിരുന്നിട്ടും അതിൻെറ ഫലമായി അതിനെപ്പററി ക്ലിപ്തമായ ഒരു
ഭരണനയം രൂപീകരിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കാൻ ഇതുവരെ സാ
ധിക്കാതിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനേയോ ആ തരത്തിലുള്ള മററൊ
രു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനേയോ ഹജൂർക്കച്ചേരിയിലുള്ള Development Section
നെ ഭരിക്കാൻ ഏല്പിക്കുന്നതു ഒരിക്കലും പ്രയോജനകരമായി തീരുന്നത
ല്ല. Development Section ലെ ഭാരവാഹിത്വം ബുദ്ധിമാനായ ഒരു നല്ല
റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനിൽ ഇരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. Development Section ൽ ഉ
ൾപ്പെട്ടതായ Customs നെപ്പററിയൊ, മററു വല്ല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ
പ്പററിയൊ പുറമേയുള്ള സ്ഥിതികളുടെ പ്രത്യേകജ്ഞാനം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്ക
ണമെന്നുള്ള ആവശ്യം തോന്നുന്നപക്ഷം ആ റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെയാ
ണ് അയച്ചു പഠിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടത്, അങ്ങിനെ കിട്ടുന്ന റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ
ൻെറ ബുദ്ധിവൈഭവത്താൽ ഭരണനയങ്ങളെ രൂപീകരിച്ച് ഗവർണ്മെ
ൻറിനെ ഉപദേശിക്കേണ്ട ഭാരവാഹിത്വമാണ് അദ്ദേഹം വഹിച്ചു
കൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ടത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികൾക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള ആ
ൾ തന്നെ സർവ്വഥാ യോഗ്യനെന്നാണ എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. എക്സൈ
സ് കമ്മിഷണരും Controller of Customs-ഉം ഒരാളായിരുന്ന് ഭരണം നട
ത്താൻ തക്കതായ ഒരാൾ കിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ അതു വളരെ വലുതായ ലാഭവും സൌ
കര്യവുമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. എക്സൈസ കമ്മിഷണർ എ
ക്സൈസ് ഭരണത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധയോടുകൂടിയ മേൽനോട്ടംമാത്രം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടി
രിക്കുകയും, Controller of Customs എന്നുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗഭാരത്തെ ചുമതല
യോടുകൂടി വഹിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ആ ജോലി ശരിയായി വഹി
ച്ചെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ ഭരണം നട
ത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോരാൻ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു.

[Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli..]

ഒരു സംഗതികൂടി മാത്രമെ എനിക്കിനി പറയേണ്ടതായുള്ളു. ഹജ്ജൂർ സിക്രിട്ടേറിയററിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ളവർ അവരുടെ സ്ഥാനങ്ങളെ കളങ്കരഹിതമായി പരിപാലിച്ചുപോരുന്നതിൽ എല്ലാവക്കും അതിയായ സന്തോഷമുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ നിലയെ എല്ലാ കാലത്തും പരിപാലിച്ചു കാണണമെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം അത്യാഗ്രഹപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. സിക്രിട്ടേറിയററിൽ നിന്നും ആളുകളെ പുറമെ അയച്ച് അതിനു പകരം മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽനിന്നും ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ അവസരങ്ങളിലും അവർ മുമ്പു കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടീട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗജീവിതകാലത്തെ വേണ്ടപോലെ പരിശോധിച്ചു കളങ്കസംശയംപോലും ഇല്ലാത്തവരെ മാത്രമെ ഹജ്ജൂർക്കച്ചേരിയിലെ മുറികളിൽ കടത്തി വിടാൻ പാടുള്ളു.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Thodupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, speaking in general of the department of administration of the State, it has been proved and agreed on both sides of this House that the service must be as efficient as possible and every care should be taken to maintain it so. This is certanly what it should be. In this connection, I beg leave to submit that, under pretext of efficiency or any other similar plea, no department should be monopolised by any particular section or sections of His Highness' subjects. The classes not sufficiently represented in the service till now should in all justice and fairplay receive special consideration at the hands of all concerned in the matter. Of the badly represented classes such as non-caste Hindus, Mahomedans, and Christians, I beg to bring to the kind notice of the Government as well as the heads of departments and of this House the cause of the community to which I belong—I mean the Catholic community. Of a total population of 40,06,062, the Catholics count 6,11,312, *i. e.*, a little less than 1/6 of the total population. In point of general literacy, higher education and vested interest in the land, this community is not behind any other community in the State taken singly.

But, sad to say, according to the *Civil List*, I see that, out of 800 gazetted officers in the State, only 44 are Catholics and of these 31 are in the Educational and Medical Departments and the remaining 13 are distributed among the 25 other departments. As regards the subordinate services, my friend Mr. Kunjitomman had put in a few interpellations in this House to get the necessary statistics. Sorry to say, the Government were not pleased to supply them. However, I can assure the House that we are much worse in the subordinate ranks than in the higher. Whatever might have been the cause of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, I beg to say that it is high time for the Government to take early steps to remedy this crying injustice done to a big community in the State. I recognize the difficulty of Government to recruit all at once from the communities which have not hitherto been adequately represented in the

service. All that I plead for is that the Government and the heads of the departments should sympathetically consider the justice of our claims in the entertainment of qualified hands without impairing efficiency to the higher ranks and the recruitment of others to the subordinate ranks as is done from the better-placed communities. I hope the members of this House will not misunderstand me as communal questions are sometimes misunderstood.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഹജൂർ കച്ചേരി രാഷ്ട്രീയ കേന്ദ്രസ്ഥാനമാകയാൽ അവിടെ എത്രയും യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും അവക്ക് അവിടെ ഇരുന്നു പരിചയം സിദ്ധിക്കയും അവരുടെ യോഗ്യത നല്ലവണ്ണം പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്താൽ അവരെ പുറത്ത് ഓരോ ജോലിക്കു നിയമിച്ചയയ്ക്കുന്നതു നന്നാണെന്നും ഞാനും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഹജൂർ കച്ചേരിയിലെക്ക് എടുക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനികരമല്ലാത്തവിധം കഴിയുന്നതും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വിവിധവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവർമെന്റ് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൂടുതൽ ഗുണത്തിനല്ലാതെ ദോഷത്തിനു വഴിയില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളേയും ജനങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാ വിഭാഗങ്ങളേയും പററി ഗവർമെന്റിനു ശരിയായി അറിയാൻ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കും. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും പ്രായേണ മിക്ക സമുദായങ്ങളിലും യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു നിസ്തർക്കമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഗവർമെന്റ് ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രവർത്തിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും ജനസംഖ്യയിലും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിലും മററും ഈ രാജ്യത്ത് എത്രയും പ്രാധാന്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന ചില സമുദായങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും മററു പല വകുപ്പിലുമെന്നപോലെതന്നെ ഹജൂർ വകുപ്പിലും ആരേയും നിയമിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ആറുലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം ജനസംഖ്യയുള്ളതും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായ ഒരു നിലയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതുമായ റോമൻകത്തോലിക്കരിൽനിന്നും ആരുംതന്നെ ഹജൂർ വകുപ്പിൽ സിക്രട്ടറിമാരായോ സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരായോ ഇല്ലെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല അനേകം ക്ലാർക്കുകൾ ഉള്ളതിലും ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ പേരെങ്കിലും ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഹജൂർ വകുപ്പിൽ കത്തോലിക്കരിൽ നിന്നും മററു പ്രവേശനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്ത വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വിശിഷ്യ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നിന്നും കൂടി യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തു നിയമിച്ചു ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയുടെ നിലയെ കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കി തീർക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

[Mr. A. J. Van Ross.]

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not expect that there would be any talk about my department in connection with the demand under General Administration. I find Mr. Kumara Pillai has taken—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Louder, please.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I find that Mr. Kumara Pillai has taken this opportunity of making some criticism about the administration of my department. He has stated that customs revenue has been going down. I beg to correct him. In 1095, the customs revenue was Rs. 18,88,559. That was the year in which I took charge of the department. In 1096, the revenue rose from Rs. 18 lakhs and odd to Rs. 23,30,284, *i. e.*, an increase of Rs. 4,41,725.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Out of the amount of revenue collected, I wish to know, what portion was due to duty on tea?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, my point was—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Van Ross has not answered Mr. Hoogewerf's question.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In 1095 and 1096 there was a fall in revenue from tea duty, while the total revenue under customs has increased.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What I said was that there are various ways of increasing the customs revenue and that they must be worked out. I am quite aware that the revenue under customs is on the increase.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The revenue has now risen from Rs. 23 lakhs to Rs. 26 lakhs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know what this rise in revenue is due to? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): The rise is due to the careful collection of revenue.

Mr. Kumara Pillai said that the customs revenue might be further increased. But he has not suggested how it should be done. Travancore customs revenue is mostly from exports, while in other countries it is mostly from imports. If we add on further duty to the exports, it will add to the burden of our people.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I will give the necessary information in my reply.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does Mr. Van Ross mean to say that, during Mr. Raman Pillai's time, customs revenue was not properly collected?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I did not say that, I only gave the figures. In three years it has risen to Rs. 26 lakhs and

odd. Similarly, in the case of tobacco, there has been a steady increase. The total collection in the case of tobacco in 1096 was Rs. 17,02,298, and in 1097 Rs. 18,73,576.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to state the revenue in Arukutty customs when Mr. Van Ross was Assistant Commissioner there, and the revenue now?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): In answering the question, I have to say that the member is probably speaking of the fall in Arukutty customs revenue this year. It has been explained very well in the report of this year given by the Financial Secretary, that there was a diversion of trade from Arukutty to Alleppey, owing to the increased shipping charges in Cochin. A large volume of trade has been diverted to Alleppey and there has been a corresponding increase in the revenue there.

Then the member seemed to suggest that the administration of the department is suffering greatly because it is in my charge. I want to submit that there is no foundation for the statement. I have been showing a steady increase in the revenue. When I took charge, the revenue was only Rs. 72 lakhs and odd. I have budgeted in 1099 for a revenue of Rs. 92 lakhs. There is an increase of Rs. 20 lakhs. I think I have given a very good record of my work. There might be better men available for the post. But if the members view the question impartially, they will observe that there has been a steady increase of revenue from the time I took charge of the department.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether the increase is due to the general prosperity of the country or to the efficiency of the head of the department?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): When there is an increase in revenue you say that it is due to the prosperity of the country, and when there is a decrease you say that it is due to the fault of the man. I think that is very unfair.

Mr. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I also beg to endorse the views of Mr. Kumara Pillai in the matter of keeping steady efficiency and—

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I also agree with Mr. Kumara Pillai in the view that steady efficiency should be kept up in the Huzur Secretariat, and also with the suggestion made by him as to sending out officers working in the Secretariat as executive officers and taking in executive officers back into the Secretariat. I am fully in sympathy with him in adopting that course in the matter of preferments, etc.

I also beg to associate myself with the other aspect of the case put forward by the Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkappalli and Mr. Kunjitomman. It will be observed by the members of this Council that there has been a lot of interpellations and complaints with regard

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

to appointments. I think that is a matter which requires sympathetic consideration on the part of this House and also of the authorities concerned. Of course, efficiency should be the primary object, but as has been observed by me on former occasions, it should not be allowed to be used as a weapon by interested persons for selfish ends. That is to say, under the false name of efficiency due representation and equal opportunities to all classes in the matter of appointments should not be overlooked. With regard to the claims put forward by my friends about the community to which I have the honor to belong, I think some special consideration is due to that great community. Its claims have been overlooked so far. What I mean is that, without neglecting the claims of other communities, due representation should be given as far as possible without bringing in any revolutionary changes. I only beg to submit that in the matter of new appointments, due consideration should be given to the claims of the Catholic community and other unrepresented classes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Kumara Pillai on this motion. Of course, efficiency ought to be the primary consideration in the Secretariat. But, in addition to the suggestion which he has made, I have to submit that when persons are recruited to the Secretariat they may be recruited by open competition. Sir, I am against all communal representation. (MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI—*Hear, hear.*) I think that on account of the recommendation in the matter of communal representation, there has been much communal bickering in the country. But, at the same time, I do not think that the Secretariat or any other department should be the close preserve of certain clans or tribes, but it must be open to all classes of people. A particular community or a particular portion of the public should not be excluded from any department or from the Secretariat. If communal representation is going to be adopted as the principle, it will not be possible to give due representation to all communities. Some of my friends were pleading for the representation of the Roman Catholic community. Sir, they were pleading the cause of the community not as representatives of the public by whom they were elected, but as representatives of certain communities. Of course, they have got legitimate grievances so far as their community is concerned; but in the interests of the public I represent, I must strongly protest against the acceptation of the principle of communal representation in the public service.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I strongly support Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion. I shall begin with the Secretariat. In the Secretariat, I think, and I am saure all will concede, that we should have the pith of the service. All-round men, men of versatile capacity, men of plenty of initiative and imagination, men who can evolve new schemes, who associate themselves with universities instead of with colleges and schools, men who can do everything in their power to tap the latent

powers of the State in the matter of agriculture and industries,—these are the men that should be employed in the Secretariat. No doubt, we have at present men of that kind in the Secretariat. Just a little diversion, Sir. These proceedings of the Council used to be given to us about three or four *months* after the speeches were made here. Some screw was very loose somewhere. Now the Head of the Administration has tightened that screw, and now we see the preliminary edition of the proceedings placed before us in two or three *days* after the speeches were made here. The speech that I made two or three *days* ago stares me in the face in cold point now. This is the sort of work that we want. I see Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar very often and he has always a kind word to say to every one. Then, there is Mr. Madhava Kurup who is always very cheerful and working very hard.

I will now pass on to the recruitment of subordinates in the Huzur Secretariat. I do not agree with Mr. Karayalar in saying that an Assistant Excise Commissioner should be put in charge of the Development Section. That Section does not deal with the Excise Department alone. It deals with Industry, Forest and several other departments. In the Madras Board of Revenue, it is not an Excise Assistant Commissioner who is in charge of the Development Section but a civil servant. Recruitment should be reasonably made from the Development Section for offices in the Excise, Forest and other departments with which this Section deals.

With regard to the Secretariat officers, their pay should be increased and they must be officers of high status. I am sure everybody in this House will join with me in wishing that they should be put in charge of the portfolios of the various departments. When the Excise Commissioner or the Land Revenue Commissioner is asked a question, he has often to refer to the Secretaries to Government. I wish the Secretaries were in charge of the various portfolios. I wolud therefore suggest Secretaries themselves being empowered to deal with questions of policy in this Council. Perhaps, a better arrangement would be the creation of an Executive Council in view of the absence of continuity of policy. For instance, one Dewan comes and opens the Shertallai canal another Dewan comes and closes it. A third opens it again. I would therefore urge the necessity for having an Executive Council.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move that the question be now put, since we have only 20 minutes more.

The motion for closure was carried.

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): എനിക്കു മറുപടിയായി രണ്ടു വാക്കു മാത്രമെ പറയേണ്ടതായുള്ളു. ഹജൂർ കച്ചേരിയിലും, ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും റോമൻ കത്തോലിക്ക് സമുദായത്തിന് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കുറവാണെന്നും അവർക്കു കൂടുതൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഫാദർ വെട്ടിക്കാപ്പള്ളി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ജാതിതിരിച്ചുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ പബ്ലിക്ക

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

സൎവ്വീസിൻെറ കാൎയ്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു കുറവുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു തന്നെയാണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ആളുകളെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നത് Competitive പരീക്ഷമൂലം വേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവവാൎയ്യരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം നല്ലതാണെന്ന് ഞാനും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഹജൂർകച്ചേരിയിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിനു Competitive പരീക്ഷ നടത്തിവിജയികളായിവരുന്നവരെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു ആവശ്യമെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഓരോ ജാതിക്കാരിലും നിന്ന് ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചുവരുന്ന നയം ഗവർമ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിച്ചുപോരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ആ നയം ഗവർമ്മെൻറു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന കാലത്തോളം റോമൻകത്തോലിക്കർക്കുള്ള ന്യായമായ ഓഹരി അവൎക്കും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു തന്നെയെന്നാണ് എനിക്കും അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളതു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസ്സ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പററി ചിലതു പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെ വരവു വൎദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ ഞാൻ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമാത്രമല്ല എനിക്കറികയും ചെയ്യാം. അബ്കാരിയിലെ വരവു വൎദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതിന് അധികൃതന്മാരുടെ ശ്രമങ്ങൾ എത്രത്തോളം വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതും എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. അതിനെപ്പററിയല്ല എൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഞാൻ വാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് നികുതിഭാരം വൎദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ വരവുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് Customs ഒരു പ്രധാന വഴിയാണെന്നും അതിലേക്ക് വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുമാണ്. അരൂക്കുററിച്ചവുക്കവഴി വ്യാജമായി പല ചരക്കുകളും പോകുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, ന്യായമായി തീരുവതീൎക്കാതെ ഒട്ടു വളരെ വെളിച്ചെണ്ണ കടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ ശ്രമിച്ചതായും അതിനെ പിടിച്ച് കേസ്സാക്കിയതായും എൻെറ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ള എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അരൂക്കുററി, എറണാകുളം, കൊച്ചി, ആലുവാ, ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ അടുത്തകാലത്തുതന്നെ എനിക്കു സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതിനും, ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ താമസിച്ചു കയററുമതികളെ പററിയുള്ള പല വിവരങ്ങളും അറിയുന്നതിനും സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവിടെയുള്ള പല മാന്യന്മാരിലും നിന്ന് എനിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള അറിവുകളാൽ അരൂക്കുററി, ആലപ്പുഴ ഈ ചവുക്കകളിലെ ഭരണം തീരെ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അരൂക്കുററിവഴി വ്യാജങ്ങൾ വളരെ കുറവെന്നാണ് എൻെറ ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിനു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഞാനെന്നല്ല, അവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതികളും

അവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന സംഗതികളും അറിയാവുന്ന ആരും തന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കാൻ ഒരുക്കമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ആ ദിക്കുകളിലുള്ള എന്റെ സഞ്ചാരത്തിൽ അരൂക്കുററി, ആലപ്പുഴ ഈ ചൗക്കകൾ വഴിപോകുന്ന കയററുമതി സാമാനങ്ങൾക്കു മതിയാകാതെയുള്ള തീരുവതീർത്തുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു സാധാരണയായി നടന്നുവരുന്ന ഒരു സംഭവം എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. അരൂക്കുററിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച പ്രിവൻററിവ് ജോലിക്കായുള്ള ആളുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കുകയും, മോട്ടാർ ബോട്ടുകൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തതിൽ പിന്നീട് ആ വഴി വ്യാജങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്നാണ് എന്റെ സൂക്ഷ്മമായ അറിവ്. ചൗക്കകളുടെ ഭരണം തീരെ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെന്നും Controller of Customs അതിനെപ്പററി വേണ്ടപോലെ നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നും, അതിനാൽ കയററുമതി തീരുവയുടെ വരവ് ന്യായമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നും വീണ്ടും ഞാൻ ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി വാദിക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറോസ്സിന്റെ വാദങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതിൽകൂടുതലായി ഇപ്പോൾ സമാധാനം പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I rise to a point of explanation. There was a fall only in the Arukutty Customs and not in Alwaye customs. I have explained the cause of the fall in the Arukutty Customs.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I would have no objection to answer his question after he has heard me fully.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to say in regard to the motion before the Council now. The staffing of the Secretariat is a very difficult matter and Government are trying their best to secure the services of efficient men. In this connection I am glad to note that the work of the officers of the Secretariat is viewed with approbation by the members of this Council. In regard to the claims of the Catholic community for representation in the public service advocated by the revd Fr. Vettikkappalli, Mr. Kunjitomman and Mr. Nidiry, I have only to say that the policy of the Government is to give equal opportunities to all classes of His Highness' subjects, and I can assure the House that this policy will be kept in view.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 182 to 184.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

182. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,51,850 for Huzur Cutcherry by Rs 10.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

183. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

184. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 100.

Motion 185.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

185. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,000 for Legilative Council by Rs 100.

Sir, I do not propose to discuss the provisions of the Legislative Council Regulation and the Rules passed thereunder though I feel, as keenly as any one can, that the time has arrived for that Regulation being revised so as to confer a real and substantial share of responsibility on the non-official representatives of this Council; and I hope it will be left to the authors of this Regulation to introduce that measure of responsible Government in the administration of the State.

My object in bringing forward this motion is to congratulate the Government on certain important points and to point out certain defects in the working of the Regulation, which can be removed by a more liberal and generous policy of the executive.

My first complaint is that we are not having as many meetings of the Council as we should have or even the statutory minimum number prescribed by the old Regulation. While recognising that frequent meetings of the Council may give room for a not inconsiderable extent of dislocation of work and strain on the officers, I would submit that the interests of Government are better served by the affording of more frequent opportunities for the officials and non-officials to exchange their views. I cannot imagine that anything would be more conducive to screw up inefficient officers or that anything would be a better tonic or corrective to officers than the fear of a popular body sitting over them watchfully. It would be a wholesome change to have the meetings, if possible, bi-monthly. In that case the sittings need not extend, more than a week at a time for the most. The fewness of the number, of days allotted for non-official business is another matter to which, Sir, I wish to draw your personal attention. The number of resolutions that have lapsed is significant; for during the whole period of this year we had only seven days allotted for non-official business.

A word or two in regard to interpellations. Most of us are freely exercising the right and it is a much-cherished privilege. But the right is to a large extent impaired when questions selected apparently for their innocuousness are answered, and the rest, though admitted as a matter of policy, are either allowed to lapse or answeree after such long intervals that the questioner does not gain much by the answers given.

With your permission, Sir, I would also venture to speak on the evasive and, so far as we are concerned, vague and indefinite answers almost usually given. It would appear that there is a lurking suspicion that questions are sent in to embarrass the Government, while the real object is to elicit information or incidentally afford the Government an opportunity to re-examine their position or to remove misconceptions. An outsider who reads a set of our questions and answers would be surprised at the dexterity of Government in answering to the point and yet leaving the questioner as unenlightened as before. To my mind, Government, if true to their professions of taking the people into their confidence and respecting public opinion, should, even at the risk of departing from their time-honoured ways of answering in the negative and answering in the affirmative, take advantage of the opportunity and fully explain their position. An air of mystification is imparted by some monosyllabic answers we have been receiving, and the suspicion probably latent in the popular mind only gains force when direct answers are avoided.

Closely connected with this is the right of supplementary questions. It is not entirely or always the fault of the officers who are in this Council to answer questions on behalf of the Government that they almost invariably claim notice of supplementary questions with the result that the privilege of putting such questions has been rendered fruitless. It has been repeatedly affirmed that you, Sir, are here not as Dewan, but as President of this Council, but the President has sometimes taken advantage of his position to answer a supplementary question if it forms a useful defence, though at other times he declines to volunteer an answer to the House.

As rightly observed by you, Sir, the position of the Government in this Council is very peculiar. Outside this hall, you represent the Government, but here you cannot participate in the debates; and the Secretaries and Heads of Departments can bind the Government only when, and to the extent to which, they are expressly authorised by the Government. Very often, we find the President placed in a most awkward situation. Although the President disclaims to be addressed as Dewan or the Head of the Administration during the course of the debate, he makes statements and gives assurances to the House not as President, but as Dewan. For, under the Regulation or Rules, the President has no such function. The working of the Regulation during the last one year should have demonstrated that the creation of an Executive Council responsible to the legislature should have simultaneously taken place with the expansion of the Legislative Council.

I would also avail myself of this opportunity to impress upon the Government the need for starting the work of a Council Chamber at an early date. The holding of the Council at a distance from the Secretariat inconveniences the Government. The absence of consulting rooms and a reference library at hand is a great handicap to us non-officials. The accoustic properties of this hall occassionally defy even the most stentorian voice and betray even the expert shorthand writer.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

Before closing, I wish to endorse the words of approbation spoken by that keen critic of men and measures, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai, regarding the Legislative Section of the Secretariat. The expedition with which the preliminary editions of the proceedings are placed before us is really praiseworthy, especially when it is noticed that here they are working with half the number of reporters that they have in Madras. The editing of the speeches is admirable to a fault and we are personally under an obligation to you for the special arrangements made in this matter.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): The most important thing that strikes me in dealing with a motion relating to the Legislative Council is in regard to its habitation. I think the time has come for the Legislative Council to have a suitable building of its own. Of all the reforms that shed lustre upon the reign of His Highness the Maha Raja, the institution and the recent reform of the Legislative Council stand foremost. From its small beginning in 1063 with but eight members, it has now grown to its present position and constitutional importance by the great and memorable reform effected by the Regulation of 1097. It is now found impossible to hold its sittings in the Dewan's room as in days of old. We have to provide accommodation, in addition to its members, for a fairly large and growing body of reporters, both official and non-official, and a large section of the public who take a very keen interest in the proceedings of this Council.

The Legislative Council has a highly efficient and gradually increasing staff of its own, and it has got a library which is steadily expanding under the supervision of a Secretary who takes a genuine interest in its expansion. The library and the staff of the Council have to be accommodated in more suitable and convenient quarters than are at present available in the Public Offices buildings. The necessity for holding the meetings of the Popular Assembly is also an important matter to be taken into account. We have also to hold meetings of committees for revising laws and for other purposes often requiring investigation and reference to the library. I submit, a separate building with all the requisite convenience for this Council is absolutely necessary.

If the Legislative Council is to be a permanent institution, it must also have a fixed House in a suitable building with all the necessary accommodation for the members and the public and also its library and staff. The reforms inaugurated may very well be commemorated by the erection of a building in keeping with its position and its importance in the constitution of the State.

With regard to the reforms in the procedure of the Council, I have a word to submit. I trust that Government will recognise that it is by discussion and by criticism that truth is discovered and that Government are enabled to find out their errors and omissions. We conceive it to be our duty to point out to the Government the mistakes they have committed, as we believe it is the duty of the opposition to criticise

the actions of the Government wherever it is found to be necessary. We therefore hope that more and more opportunities will be given to us in order to enable us to discharge our duty to our country and to our Sovereign.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, I wish to say a word in regard to the Legislative Council Library. As it is, I think it is practically of no use to the mofussil members. I once wrote to the Secretary to the Legislative Council asking for some books and I received a reply from the Chief Secretary to Government that the rules do not permit him to send out books to the mofussil members. I beg that arrangements may be made for the library being made useful to the mofussil members also.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Several suggestions have been made, the adoption of which will certainly facilitate the work of the Legislative Council. In the course of the proceedings of this Council, one fact has very often forced itself upon my attention. We find important officials sitting on the official benches; and we find them in charge of particular subjects at the time of discussion; but all the same, the answers to the interpellations are given by the Secretaries to Government. The answers are given by either the Chief Secretary or one or other of the officers in the Secretariat. I really do not understand the significance of this formality which has become an established fact. If certain officials are given portfolios, and if a number of such officers sit in the official benches, I think, more work can be done. As such, this House has to come to a conclusion that every answer given comes with the impress of the Head of the Administration. Regarding the further facilities of the work in this Council, I have to make two suggestions. You will have observed, Sir, that one of the most important topics discussed in this House at every session is the speed with which the number of officers is increased, as also their pay, allowances and contingent charges. My friend Mr. Madhava Variar referred to the question of recruitment. The choice of persons for posts in the service is a very important matter. So long as it is guided by fortuitous circumstances, I think there will be a serious complaint. But if you have a recognised system of public examinations alike for mental, moral and physical qualities, the candidates who come out successful will, as a matter of fact, be appointed and no bad blood will be created because of so-called nepotism and favouritism. When I was talking about another subject—I think the Land Revenue Department—I said that there must be a committee to enquire into the methods of work followed by the Land Revenue Department to see what kind of co-ordination is possible. I would extend that principle and say that the sooner a committee is appointed to go into the whole question of public service the better it will be for the State, and then the Council will be able to do very much more work in a shorter time.

Another point I would suggest is the representation of certain classes that has been claimed by some of my friends.

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir I beg to point out that it is not relevant to the discussion. We are dealing with the Legislative Council now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Under the rules it is the President who has got the power to disallow the reference. I shall, however, answer the point raised by the Chief Secretary. The relevancy consists in this. My suggestions are for facilitating the work of the Legislative Council and I plead for the appointment of a committee in order to see that unnecessary disputes are not repeated about appointments and salaries. In the same manner, Sir, I make bold to observe that, if we give all communities equal opportunities of getting appointments in the public service, then the Government can betake itself to more important duties and thereby do very much more valuable work. Therefore I once more affirm that it is relevant. That all communities should be given equal opportunities is a principle which has been accepted by the Government for a very long time; and I am glad to find that the Government is anxious to extend the benefit of this rule to communities that have been long neglected and long depressed. But the question is important should be considered only with regard to recruitment. I affirm that when once a man—

PRESIDENT: I do not know whether you can dilate upon that matter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to take much time.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, your time is nearly up.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the matter of recruitment, the claims of all communities may have to be considered consistently, of course, with the demands of efficiency. For that also, we have accepted certain principles. These principles cannot be very well laid down by a single officer—not even by the Dewan. A competent committee is therefore required. Already suggestions have been made for the appointment of a committe to consider the whole question of public service. That committee may consider this question also. Unless these communal difficulties are removed, there is bound to be great difficulty for managing the Legislative Council, in the same manner as in the case of the S. M. P. Assembly. Therefore, Sir, I pray once more for the appointment of a really efficient committee for considering the whole question of public service.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir——

PRESIDENT: Yo have got only one minute more for discussion of this demand. The mover will have to reply. I think the Chief Secretary may have some reply. You may speak for one minute.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Then I do not wish to speak.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I quite agree with Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai in saying that a new building with proper accoustic arrangements is necessary for this Council. One side of this Hall is screened up and the breeze is shut. Fans also partly prevent our being heard while speaking.

I also agree with Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai in regard to the anomaly of having the Dewan as President. The results of Monday's and Tuesday's proceedings have made people think that the Council is not serving its purposes.

PRESIDENT: Mr Hoogewerf, the time for the discussion of this demand is over. I think the motion has got to be voted upon. Do you press your motion, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): No, I merely wanted to bring certain facts to the notice of the Council. We should like to hear the Government side.

PRESIDENT: I do not think there is time for it. However Mr. Krishna Pillai, you may speak for a minute or two.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The first point raised by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai is that there have not been sufficiently large number of meetings of the Legislative Council. In regard to this, I have to say that ordinarily it would not be possible to have more than three meetings.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether under the old regulation four meetings were not obligatory?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is true, but not under the new regulation. The work connected with the Legislative Council and the Assembly imposes a great strain on the officers of the Secretariat, as also on the heads of departments. On a rough calculation, it has been found that nearly four or five months' time is taken up by the Council and the Popular Assembly during the year. Of course, we do not grudge the time, because we consider that it is spent in the best interests of the country. All I wish to point out is that it would not be possible to hold more meetings unless the existing administrative machinery is considerably strengthened.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know why no provision is made for this purpose in the current budget? (*Laughter.*)

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Then, as regards the creation of the Executive Council suggested by one or two members, it is a matter of great constitutional and administrative importance and the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja cannot be reasonably expected to come to a decision without further experience of the working of the present Legislative Council.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether you recognise the anamolous position of the Dewan as being himself the President of this Council and the Head of the Administration?

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: As to the Dewan, I must say something about myself and I will say that.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As regards the provision of decent accommodation, I agree that it is an absolute necessity. A decent building would cost a lot of money. Only it is a question of funds. When funds become available, the question will be taken up. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose was saying that there was difficulty in getting reference books from the Library. There is no objection to the books being sent out. But who is to pay the transmission charges?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Who pays the transmission charges for books borrowed by and things sent to the officers?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Books are not sent to officers.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Communications are sent at Government cost. This is miscellaneous expenditure.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I just wanted to know how the expenditure should be met. It is a small matter. It may be looked into.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Do not Government pay travelling allowances to members? In the same way, books may be sent to the members and the expenditure of sending them may be met by Government.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This cannot be done without amending the Library Rules. The matter will be looked into.

Then as regards the appointment of a committee—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartigapalli*): What about the nature of the answers to interpellations?

PRESIDENT: I will speak in regard to that.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know why no time was set apart for non-official business under Standing Order No. 6 (1) which makes it imperative to do so?

MR. R KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We realised that during the last budget discussion there was very little time for non-official business. The question of allotting more time for non-official business is one which requires consideration.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is there any safe test as to what is official and what is non-official work, some safe test whichmay be applied?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is very clear. I do not think there is any difficulty.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I ask because I am not clear.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not think there is any difficulty in differentiating official from non-official work.

PRESIDENT: I think we must close the discussion on this Demand.

I think in fairness to myself I must explain one or two things bearing on the remarks made by the proposer of the motion, because they are remarks with referring to me as President of the Council. In regard to the meetings of the Legislative Council, it is true that we were able to hold only three meetings during 1098. The Chief Secretary has already explained the main reasons for not holding more meetings. It is not the disinclination of Government. Government would be glad to have more meetings if it is at all possible, but we find that one meeting means preparation for at least one month, not merely for the officers of the Secretariat, but for all departmental heads and probably a number of their subordinates. And the budget meeting means preparation for two months. There is the Popular Assembly and preparing for the meeting of the Assembly means again a heavy strain for about two months. As matters now stand, with the existing establishment, it is physically impossible to do more, and the House also knows the time each meeting of the Legislative Council has been taking. The first meeting, which was the budget meeting, took over 18 days. The next meeting took 10 days. The present meeting covers a period of 17 days. All these mean very heavy extra work side by side with the work of every-day administration of the country for the Head of the Administration and the heads of various departments and officers of the Secretariat, and it is not found possible to hold more meetings at present. If it is possible to hold four meetings this year, we would certainly attempt it. It is not disinclination but it is the inability. That is what I have to say in regard to that point.

In regard to interpellations, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai was rather unfair to the President of this House in saying that the answers given are evasive and that only innocuous questions are selected and answers given in an evasive way. I think that, in answer to an interpellation about the number of questions that were put, the number of questions that were answered has been given, and it will be seen that about 75 per cent. of the questions put have been answered. And it will also, I think, be conceded that, at this session, of about 295 questions sent in and admitted by Government nearly 225 have been answered. I am quite sure that the members would admit that, in giving the answers, Government have got to be very careful. There is no use hiding this. It will be conceded that Government is a very responsible body and cannot give answers which are not thoroughly sifted and which are not

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

found to be absolutely unimpeachable and that means the examination of information called for. If the information obtained is not complete, that involves further correspondence which means time. In other Legislative Councils, all the interpellations put are not answered, not even the bulk of them. As regards supplementary questions, very few such questions have been put here. During this session, we have been giving answers which the members themselves evidently recognise as full answers and in regard to which they have consequently not felt the necessity to raise supplementary questions.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know—

PRESIDENT: I cannot be questioned when I am speaking. As regards the selection of innocuous questions, the House would concede that the most inconvenient questions have been taken up for answering and I believe the answers have given satisfaction to the House, and I do not admit that deliberately the President of the Council selects innocuous questions for answering. That is rather an unfair criticism. I recognise that the position of the President in this House is somewhat difficult and anomalous. We have to put up with such anomalies in the passing phases of important institutions which are undergoing experiment and trial. These anomalies will have to be remedied only very slowly, very cautiously and very gradually. As to whether Government do not want light to shine upon their doings, as to whether Government want to conceal their actions or whether Government want to place before the House all the information that is necessary to enlighten the House on important matters—in regard to that also, I appeal to the House to be the judges. The other day the House wanted an extension of time for the discussion of a certain Demand from 2½ hours to 5 hours. I believe the President conceded that request and the Demand was discussed at greater length. The House will also concede that, as far as possible, the President has been enabling the heads of departments to meet all questions for information put by the non-official members and to satisfy their demands for information.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I now present the Demand under General Administration, Demand VII, for a grant of Rs. 1·88 lakhs *minus* Rs. 858, for the acceptance of the House. I take it that the House accepts it.

The grant was made.

Motions 186 to 189.

The following motions were not moved because the time allotted for the discussion of the Demand had expired:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

186. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,000 for Legislative Council by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

187. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,000 for Legislative Council by Rs. 10.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

188. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,000 for Sri Mulam Popular Assembly by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

189. To reduce the total allotment or Rs. 1·88 lakhs under Demand VII by Rs. 100.

DEMAND VIII—GRNERAL ADMINISTRATION.

ACCOUNT OFFICE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for the grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. ·92 lakh under Demand VIII—General Administration—Account Office.

Motion 190.

The following motion was not made:

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

190. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 440 for hot weather charges by Rs. 340.

Motion 191.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

191. To omit the allotment of Rs. 91,670 for Account Office by Rs. 2,500.

That would roughly be the salaries of the temporary staff provided for in the new budget. My object in making this motion is to ascertain from the Financial Secretary the necessity for the temporary staff.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I will explain for what purpose the additional staff is required. The footnote to the budget partially explains it, *viz.*, that the additional staff is required for strengthening the Financial Section of the Account Office. The object is to make the section self-contained, to enable it to cope with the additional work and to place it under proper supervision. The present staff of the Section consists of 5 clerks, of whom two are graduate clerks getting Rs. 40-70 and three are undergraduate clerks. I shall first explain the need for a Superintendent for the Section. At present all the work of the section comes to the Financial Secretary without being passed either through an Assistant or a Superintendent. This arrangement is found unsatisfactory. A clerk on Rs. 40-70 cannot be expected to deal with important questions and to write proper notes, so that, whenever important questions have to be discussed, or an important note has to be written, practically all such notes have to be written twice. They are first written and given to the Financial Secretary who completely revises them and then they go back and come again after being recopied. In very many cases, the notes have to be dictated. The Council can well understand what strain it will cause to the chief officer especially when the work of the department is very heavy. As stated already, the staff of the section consists of five clerks. On the other hand, the Account Office has a staff of 115 clerks, and the supervision

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

of their work also devolves upon the chief officer. It is to afford some relief to him in regard to initial work that it is necessary to place the Financial Section under a proper supervising officer.

In all Secretariats, there is a Superintendent to supervise the work of each Section. Every branch of the Secretariat has got its own Superintendent. But, on the other hand, in the Financial Section, there is no Superintendent. I was attempting to manage with one of the Superintendents of the Account Sections, but I have found the arrangement to be unworkable. I will explain it. In the Audit Sections, the Superintendents are already overworked. There is one Superintendent for the Section called the Departmental Account Section, which deals with the Public works, Forest and Anchal money order accounts and attends to the major portion of pre-audit work. Pre-audit work is always urgent, as the rule is that ordinarily no bill should be delayed for more than 24 hours. It is found that the Superintendent of the Section has very tight work and so nothing more could be aded to him. The Superintendent in charge of the Gazetted Audit department is also in charge of Pension verification and audit. I may say that the work of the Superintendents of Audit Sections is not initialling notes. They have to pass in review all the vouchers paid in Treasuries, as well as those paid by Public Works officers and Forest officers and also to initial in the vouchers and in the audit registers. I would not therefore be justified in giving any more work to any of these officers. Then the Fund Audit Section deals with the audit of Deposit, the Devaswom Fund accounts, the audit of the 19 Municipal accounts and the audit of the Sripandaravagai and Kakur accounts. It also reviews the inspection reports submitted by the inspecting officers which number about 120 a year. All these are under one man and I think his hands are quite full. Then there is only one more Superintendent. He deals with a variety of things—Savings Banks, Life Insurance, Budget, Book and Compilation work, Exchange Accounts and so on. He was made to look after the Financial Section for some time, but I had to give up the arrangement practically during the budget season. A separate Superintendent for the Section is thus necessary both for the purpose of supervision and also to relieve me from the duty of doing initial work.

I made now refer to the need of additional clerks. My original demand was for one Superintendent and three clerks for the Financial Section. I made also another proposal to have two more clerks for the work of appropriation audit which it is necessary to undertake to see that the appropriations granted by the Council are not exceeded. Mr. Raman Pillai asked the other day how the Council was to know how heads of departments were spending the allotments granted for their departments unless the departmental administration reports are supplied to the members. Usually the information is furnished by the appropriation report of the Audit Department. But, for this, an audit of expenditure against appropriation has to be conducted. The Finance Committee, however, declined to allow any additional hands and so I have

to give up the idea of auditing against appropriations. But the other proposal the Finance Committee approved; but instead of one Superintendent and three clerks, the staff I asked for, they allowed only one Superintendent and a clerk. After all, the strengthening is only by one additional clerk. The work of the present staff is as follows. The senior clerk passes the notes, drafts etc., prepared by the other clerks and attends to Council and Assembly work. The second clerk looks after the administration of the Account Office, the Mint and Stamp Depôt, amendments to the Travancore Service Regulations and Codes, Banking, general questions regarding pay and allowances and change of rules reported on by the Account Officer. Another clerk checks Stamp and Mint accounts, examines pension cases and attends to corrections of proofs etc. Another has to do the debenture loan work, that is, to register transfers of bonds, examine and pass the claims of heirs to deceased bondholders, etc. He is also in charge of State Life Insurance work. And the last clerk attends to the work of registering and despatching, filing of records, circulation of periodicals and attends to miscellaneous duties. Thus, it will be seen that real financial work is not done in the section. At present, when a reference comes from the Government, there is no proper arrangement to take it up and dispose it off. What I now do is to entrust the work to some senior clerk in the Account Office who has to attend to it in addition to his normal work. It is admittedly not a satisfactory arrangement. The clerk, not being personally and primarily responsible for the extra work, cannot be expected to devote to it that amount of care and attention which it would require; while if he attends to the references, his normal work suffers. But I was managing in this make-shift way because references in the past were not many. But recently they have been very much on the increase. At present references from Government are not compulsory; but in the new Account Code which is about to be issued, Government have laid down that certain questions should not be disposed of by the Administrative Secretariat without previous reference to the Financial Department. For instance, all schemes submitted by heads of departments will have to be referred to the Financial Department which will have to deal with them from the financial standpoint. Recently, in connection with the budget when the heavy budget work was in full swing, as many as 65 schemes came to the Finance Department for urgent handling during a period of about two weeks. It must be remembered that these schemes are dealt with in the Administrative Secretariat by five or six different branches, but in my office they have all to go into one section. Again, there is no arrangement in the Financial Section at present to deal with any general questions, such as the revision of the travelling allowance rules, the question of economising expenditure in contingencies, etc.; but if the present section could be strengthened, I could do something in those directions. Of course, since my proposal has been considerably mutilated, I cannot carry out all that I wanted to do; but I can still considerably improve the work of the department. I need not emphasise that a strong and self-contained Financial Department will be a great gain to the State and I hope that this modest proposal of mine in the

[Mr. K. George.]

direction of increasing the efficiency of the department will be sanctioned by the Council.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In the beginning of this year there was a motion in this Council that the Financial Section may be separated from the Account Office. Mr. George was telling us that he was able to do all the work without any additional expenditure and without separating the Financial Section from the Account Office, but now he tells us that a Superintendent and some clerks are necessary for dealing with certain new items of work and it is not very clear to me what these new items are which were not in force in the beginning of this year. Moreover, I think that the staff of the Account Office stand in need of further retrenchment by way of decentralisation, by entrusting the work of ordinary audit to the Divisional Officers and resorting to the review of a certain percentage of cases in the Account Office as is done in the Madras Accountant General's Office.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That is not so.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I understand that a similar proposal has been made by the Efficiency Audit Officer and the Account Office was reorganised only this year last Chingam. Even then, there was no proposal of this kind to add to the establishment.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have not much to add. From the number of capable staff that we have been granting for the various other departments, I find that what the Financial Secretary has asked is only reasonable and I rather regret that our representatives of the Finance Committee did not give those two additional hands for which he is bewailing so much. I therefore beg permissison to withdraw the motion.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I wish to reply to Mr. Madhava Variar's observations.

PRESIDENT: Yes. You may reply.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): First of all, Mr. Madhava Variar spoke about the reorganisation of the Account Office. That reorganisation was merely a revision of pay. It did not deal with the question of increase of staff. As a matter of fact, I reduced nine hands last year. Then he spoke of my speaking last year against the separation of the Finance and Account Departments. Sir, I spoke only of my personal work in that connection and I did not say that efficient arrangements were not necessary for the carrying on of the work. All that I said then was that a separate office with a separate staff was not necessary. As regards decentralisation of audit, that is not in my opinion a desirable thing. In fact, I remember to have read some time ago a report by a certain officer in British India who was deputed to examine

the question of the audit of Local Funds in which he strongly recommended the centralisation of audit.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the report of the working of the Account Office by Mr. Dukoff Gordon is available.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Mr. Gordon's report is available. It is purely a technical document and I do not know whether anybody who is not a specialist in audit and accounts will have much use of it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I take it that Mr. George has no objection to give a copy?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have no objection.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What about the Efficiency Audit Officer's report under discussion?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I regret I do not agree with the Efficiency Audit Officer. He is no specialist in accounts.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·92 lakh be granted under Demand VIII General Administration—Account Office. I take it that the House sanctions it entirely.

The grant was made.

DEMAND IX.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·24 lakhs under Demand IX—Administration of Justice.

Motion 192.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 6,456 for process peons be reduced by Rs. 1,456. Sir, there apears to be a slight mistake in printing this motion. It relates not to process peons alone but peons in general. It will be seen from page 63 of the budget estimate that a sum of Rs. 6,456 is provided for seven process peons besides 43 ordinary peons. When I went through the estimate, I thought that the provision for 43 peons was rather too much; and subsequently when I went through the report of the Salaries Committee, I found that they recommended a reduction in the staff of peons. Of course in making their recommendation they reduced the number of peons from 53 to 40 and they suggested that they might be distributed as follows:—

Chief Justice	...	7 Peons.
Puisne Judges, 5 each	...	15 Peons.
Office	...	11 Peons.
Registrar	...	3 Peons.
Court Peons 2, each	...	4 Peons.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

This is besides the several process peons on Rs. 7 and Rs. 8 each. I do not see any reason why this Council should not adopt the recommendation of the Salaries Committee which consisted of two of the prominent members of this Council and a member of the Ex-Council with the Financial Scretary as a member and the Efficiency Audit Officer as its President. I would consider that the provision of seven peons to the Chief Justice is somewhat too much, because the Financial Secretary told us the other day that they were not even useful for pulling punkahs. If that be so, what these seven peons should do to help in the administration of justice I cannot for my part see. So I press the motion to suggest that the recommendations of the Salaries Committee should be given effect to by making this reduction of Rs. 1,456.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, from what Mr. Raman Pillai said, I think there is no material difference between the recommendations of the Salaries Committee and the number of peons that have now been sanctioned. The High Court has, in its establishment, 43 peons and 7 process peons. Mr. Raman Pillai does not urge that the number of process peons is too many, because everybody knows what those peons are intended for. Then, so far as the other peons are concerned, instead of 40 we have now 43; and the arrangement that has been made in the High Court is on the lines recommended by the Salaries Committee, *viz.*, 7 peons for the Chief Justice, 5 for each of the five Puisne Judges. As recommended by the Salaries Committee, the Registrar has 3 peons. I believe there are three peons deputed to attend on the Deputy Registrar and the Manager *viz.*, to carry papers from the office to the clerks and from the clerks to the office and there are 15 peons to preserve order, to take instructions, I mean, orders from the Bench and, I believe, also to go to the library, carry the books which the members of the Bar want from the library to them and carry them back to the library. The peons help in the administration of justice at least to this extent. So that the number of peons is limited to 15. There is no material difference between the number 40 and the number 43, and I do not think Mr. Raman Pillai will make any serious demand to curtail the number of peons by three.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The motion comprises the process peons also. As such, I wish to add a word in support of the motion. Mr. Subba Aiyar did not refer particularly to the process peons and contented himself by saying that everybody knows the sort of their work. Now Sir, we hear complaints with respect to the delay in the disposal of cases. Occasionally we condemn the incapacity of the presiding officers, occasionally, as has been hinted by Mr. Subba Aiyar—himself forgetting the camaraderie that exists between himself and us since he represents Government which is the greatest party in the State and we represent private individuals—we also contribute to the delay in the disposal of cases. But I fear that, on a correct diagnosis of the situation, it may be seen that, more than anybody else, the process

peons do contribute to the delay of the cases by the chronic remissness in their work. In the matter of serving summonses how much time is being taken up, is a question that evidently is not very seriously taken into consideration by those persons who are responsible for the discharge of this work; and we frequently see that when people think cases are closed, the process peons, by the nefarious way in which they effect service of summons, enable defendants to come in and set aside *ex-parte* decrees. That is the sort of very irregular work done by the process peons. Practically patience is knocked out of the litigant population.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether the High Court serves any summons through its own process peons?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, not to any noticable extent. So far as I am aware all the processes of the High Court are being served through the subordinate courts. Sir, process peons, as a class, call for a very severe scrutiny. So, I am opposing this provision *re*: the number of the process peons. All the process peons in the various departments of the civil courts come in for a considerable share of criticism. Then it may be questioned whether by reducing the amount that is sanctioned in this behalf to keep up this body of process peons, we can improve the situation. Well, I would submit that when the emolument that is to be earned by the process peons goes down, naturally these process peons will vacate their offices and a better variety of process peons may be organised. I want to draw the attention of Government in this particular respect to have a comparison of the number of processes served in the civil courts with the number of processes effectually served by the Police Department. So far as the High Court is concerned, certainly the necessity for so many process peons seems not to arise at all. So I support the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The Law Member has been under some misapprehension in submitting that I did not object to the process peons. I have stated at the outset that my motion is in respect of the provision for 50 peons; and I have proposed a reduction of Rs. 1,456 from the total allotment in that respect. As already pointed out, there seems to be no reason why these process peons should exist. At any rate, I am obliged to think that this small reduction is quite possible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Raman Pillai whether in the Madras High Court there are no peons for ornamental purposes. I will explain. When a Judge comes, peons go in front of him, others behind him. So I am asking Mr. Raman Pillai if he is aware of it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): My answer is that ornaments may be provided for the remaining peons. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The question is not answered.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. Raman Pillai did not say that he seriously objected to the process

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

peons and therefore it was that I did not refer to it. I believe that every member of the bar here knows that in the case of respondents they generally file objection petitions. Notice of such petitions has to be sent to the appellant. They have to put in affidavits. Notice is given to the other side and that notice has to be served. Cases that are to be taken up, though not boarded, have to be notified to the vakil. These notices have to be served. All these matters concerning the actual working of the High Court are done by the process peons. They do not serve processes upon witnesses and upon respondents. These are served through District Courts. So without the process peons, I do not think any work can get on.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does Mr. Subba Aiyar say that they are necessary for actual process work?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, do you press the motion to a division?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and it was lost, 12 voting *for* and 22 voting *against*.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I demand a poll.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I also demand a poll.

The poll was taken.

AYES 11.

1 Mr. A. Hoogewerf
2. „ C. P. Kochukunju Pillai
3. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman
4. „ V. Kunjukrishna Pillai,
5. „ M. R. Madhava Variar.
6. „ K. C. Mamman Mappillai.
7. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
8. „ J. John Nidiry.
9. „ M. N. Pillai
10. „ N. Padmanabha Pillai.
11. „ K. P. Raman Pillai.

NOES 24.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
3. „ Paul V. Daniel.
4. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai
5. „ K. George.
6. „ L. C. Hodgson.
7. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
8. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
9. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.
10. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
11. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
12. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
13. Mr. John Mackie.
14. „ K. V. Natesa Aiyar
15. „ S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
16. „ K. C. Raja Raja Varma.
17. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
18. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
19. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
20. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
21. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
22. „ Trivikramar Vasudevar.
23. „ A. J. Van Ross.
24. „ T. K. Velu Pillai.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish that the names of the neutrals also may be recorded.

PRESIDENT: I have no objection.

NEUTRALS 3.

1. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
2. Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.
3. Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I was not here and so I was not able to give my vote.

The motion was lost.

Motion 193.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

193. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,236 for temporary clerks.*

This provision in the budget is made evidently to keep the Third Bench going. Even granting that there is necessity for a Third Bench in the High Court, I submit this temporary staff is not necessary. I further contend that neither the work of the Third Bench—

PRESIDENT: I see that there are two identical motions, *viz.*, 193 and 194. The latter is by Mr. Madhava Variar. Mr. Raman Pillai, you may go on.

Mr. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Patanantitta*): Yes. He may move this motion.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Neither the work of the Third Bench nor the work of the High Court has justified the continuance of this Third Bench. In fact, it ought to have been abolished immediately after its creation. (*Laughter.*) I should like to hear from the Law Member what the justification for creating this Third Bench was, if it was on account of the arrears of the High Court, what those arrears were due to, and whether the number of appeals pending in the High Court and the volume of work available in the High Court have not gone down to the level where it was before the creation of this Third Bench. On looking at the statistics, I find that the number of first and second class appeals pending at the time of the creation of the Third Bench was 1,317. It was only 911 in 1089 and 1,117 in 1090. We find that after the constitution of the Third Bench, the file again went down to 967 in 1093 and it was only 1,167 in 1094. I wish to know what justification there was for the retention of the Third Bench in the year 1093. It again went down to 917 in 1096 which was only 6 appeals more than it was in 1089. In 1097 it suddenly went down to 107. I submit these fluctuations are caused by the tenacity of the Third Bench to perpetuate itself, owing to the unwillingness of the Judges to vacate their offices. Had they been told that in case the arrears were not cleared within a specified time, they would be either sent away or others would be put in instead, there would not have been all these

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

inexplicable fluctuations in the number of disposals of cases. It will be instructive to hear from the Law Member what is the average number of first and second appeals filed in the High Court during the six years that preceded the appointment of the Third Bench and the six years that succeeded. We should like to hear whether there is any difference, and if so, what. It will also enlighten the House to know what the average number of cases for disposal was during these two periods 1092 to 1097 and 1086 to 1092 and the arrears that accrued from year to year. Information about the number of cases pending disposal would also allow the House to decide whether there was any justification for continuing the Third Bench. Whether they were doing good work and whether they have justified their existence in the High Court will be made clear from this, if the Law Member would furnish the percentage of disposals during these two periods. I fear the House will be in a position to see that the disposal was incommensurate with the number of judges appointed. Taking all these facts into consideration, I submit the continuance of the Third Bench is really an unneccessary burden on the taxpayer. The High Court thinks otherwise and the Law Member seems to agree with whatever recommendations they make. No doubt in a case or a suit properly going up before them, their judgment unfortunately is final. (*Laughter*). But in a matter affecting public money, the High Court are still the servants of the public. No doubt they have the right to take away the liberty or the life of any citizen provided he goes within the grips of the law. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I think you are not in order, when you reflect upon a Court of Justice having jurisdiction in Travancore.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLI (*Quilon*): Under what standing order?

PRESIDENT: Rule 34 of the general rules of procedure. You are challenging the decision of the High Court. I do not think that it is right.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I am not challenging it.

PRESIDENT: You said 'unfortunately'. I think that is a reflection.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I only submit that I do not make any reflection, so far as the judgments are final.

PRESIDENT: Then there is no meaning in saying that they are 'unfortunately' final.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Let me be allowed to point out Sir, that I do not make any reflection upon the conduct of any court of justice. I submit that there is no particular conduct of the High Court before the Council. I simply submitted that all the judgments of the High Court are considered to be final and the financial recommendations they make are matters involving additional expenditure.

PRESIDENT: But since you have, I must object to it. You must withdraw.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have no objection.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was it used in a Pickwickian sense? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): When matters relating to additional expenditure are concerned, I submit this House ought to be considered to have greater weight than the High Court itself. I therefore submit that this allotment for the provision of additional clerks be omitted.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): There is prevalent an impression in certain quarters that the High Court is not as good as it used to be. From the statistics placed before the House by Mr. Raman Pillai, the irresistable conclusion arises that there is more scope for work and less scope for pay being disbursed to High Court Judges. I am of opinion that in a State like Travancore four judges ought to be sufficient; and if the recruitment is made on proper and healthy lines, if men with sufficient energy, experience and character are picked out and raised to seats in the High Court, whether from the service or from the bar, the Judges of the High Court will be able to do very much more work. As my friend Mr. Raman Pillai rightly pointed out, an institution when once started goes on. The temporary High Court Bench has become, so to speak, a fixture. As the representatives of the taxpayers, we have a right to tell the High Court that the cost of salaries to highly paid judges should be as small as possible, consistently, of course, with efficiency. The way in which cases are boarded, I think, is one reason why judges are not able to get through their work and vakils also are not able to do their work properly. I know personally of cases which had been adjourned fifteen or sixteen times after they had once been boarded. This is due to the practice of boarding a large number of cases every day irrespective of the number of cases that may be argued and disposed of. There is some tradition in Travancore which enables judges to hope that once they go and occupy a seat on the High Court Bench, it is derogatory to their prestige to go down and revert to their original position. The matter of the number of judges becomes more important when we have to consider the chances of raising the pay of the High Court Judges. I may observe that when the pay of other departmental heads is being raised from time to time, the Judges of the High Court have been drawing a stationary salary. I am not advocating an immediate rise of pay, but the question has to be considered by the Council. It can only be done on the express understanding that there should be only four judges. Another difficulty in our High Court is that our present-day judges are too kind to their subordinate judges. As I observed on a former occasion, the old type of judges used to make severe strictures on erroneous views of subordinate judges. But however carefully we may analyse the judgments of the High Court now-a-days, we find only soft words said about them and on the

[MR. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

errors of law committed by the subordinate judges. The result is bad enough to the litigant public, because there is the further fact that even though a subordinate judicial officer writes only bad judgments, that fact does not affect his promotion, because it goes by seniority; and in Travancore, it is seniority alone that counts. I think to some extent the necessity of maintaining a Third Bench depends on this; but it can rightly be traced partly to the inferior staff of the judicial service getting a little indolent and careless. Whether a judgment is well-written or ill-written, or in accordance with the law as laid down by the High Court, it does not matter. The High Court often hears of such things when learned vakils address them. The difficulties are enhanced by the careless manner in which the subordinate judges write their judgments. The subject requires examination.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Before I go into the question of statistics, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the peculiar fact, that our High Court occupies a more responsible position so far as the administration of justice is concerned than even any of the British Indian High Courts. It is a matter well known that the decision of the High Court is final and it is not open to revision by any other tribunal. Therefore the High Court, before it records its decision on any particular issue or case, has to hear patiently what the counsel appearing on both sides have to say and bestow considerable thought over the question. They have thus not only to satisfy themselves that they are doing justice, but also to satisfy the litigants that justice is meted out after hearing what the parties have to say.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether Mr. Subba Aiyar suggests that all this is not done by High Courts elsewhere?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, it is done. They too hear counsel patiently. What I say is that the judgment of the High Court here is not open to revision on any question of law by any other tribunal. That is the point. I never said that High Courts elsewhere have no responsibility. I meant to say that, if they commit a mistake, there is a further appeal.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is the Law member aware that we have what was known as Royal appeals?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Formerly, there were Royal appeals. But they are the present-day Full Bench cases. Royal appeals are heard by a Full Bench of three judges. What is done is, the Full Bench recommends to His Highness the Maha Raja to decide the appeal in the manner recommended in their judgment. These appeals are included in the statistics also.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask if the right of appeal from the decision of the British Indian courts is not subject to severe restrictions?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. But whatever may be the restrictions, there *does* exist the right.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is that one and the same thing that we had before this Full Bench?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No. Originally a Royal appeal was heard by a Full Bench. From the decision of a District Judge an appeal lay to the High Court which was heard by a single judge and an appeal lay from his decision to a Full Bench of three Judges. This was called a Royal appeal and was subject to confirmation by His Highness. An appeal whose value is not less than Rs. 5,000 is treated now as a Full Bench appeal. The decision becomes final only when it receives the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja. I am right in saying that the responsibility of our High Court is more onerous. As I said last year, the competition in the Bar is getting keener and keener every day, and therefore every member of the Bar, and particularly the juniors, have to work hard.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask whether the older generation of Vakils had not been doing their duty satisfactorily.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With all deference to the older members of the Bar, I would say that there were not so many vakils and so many Law Journals and Reports, and all that, then.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it because the law Journals increase that the number of decisions of the High Court increase?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Everywhere the decisions of the High Courts are increasingly reported day after day. We are now-a-days in a position to get a precedent for any position that one wishes to argue in the High Court. Every member of the Bar is at his wit's end to support his case by precedents and these precedents have to be examined by the High Court before they record their opinion and this means time. When I began to practise I know that there were only five judges in the High Court, Madras, and now there are twelve. Even second appeals on concurrent findings of fact take time now-a-days.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not possible for a judge to regulate the argument?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): They have got that right. I believe every member of the Bar practising in the High Court will know that, however efficient a judge may be, when he hears a question of law, he has to know if it arises in the case and for this purpose the judges have to know the facts and therefore a shrewd lawyer tries to place the facts in a particular manner so that a question of law may be raised and ultimately may be tried. But to know whether there is any such point arising in the case, the judges have to hear him on the question of fact.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask the Law member if he has not come across cases in which judges refused to hear facts in concurrent cases.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A capable judge would be able to do so. But he could not ordinarily do it. As a matter of fact when a judge begins to question the appellant's vakil as to how a question of law arises, he says: "Hear me for a while and then Your Honour will be satisfied that a question of law does arise". It is only after hearing some time longer that it will be possible to say whether a question of law arises or not. In cases of revision by a single judge or by a Division Bench of two judges, much more time is taken up now than what used to be the case in the olden days. A judge is bound to hear the counsel. A judge cannot snub the members of the Bar or gag them. He has to see whether the vakil can make out any point in favour of his client as his decision is final.

M . T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): As a matter of personal explanation I rise to say one word. Mr. Subba Aiyar has used the words, "snub the vakil". I shall be the last man to use the word. I am sure our Vakils are so respectable and independent that they will not permit themselves to be snubbed.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Now then, the disposal of the cases takes much longer time than in the olden days.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I take it that Mr. Subba Aiyar's line of argument is that, as we go on, in future there will be necessity to increase the number of judges?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): We cannot prophesy about the future. The increase will depend upon the number of cases.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it the Law Member's argument that the number of judges should be increased according to the increase in the number of Law Journals?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It will depend on the increase in the number of cases and upon the increase in the length of counsel's argument. The High Court must be supposed to be alive to their sense of responsibility and should be allowed independence in the matter of disposal. It cannot be said that an officer who is raised to the position of a High Court Judge will try to continue there simply for the purpose of continuing as a judge of the High Court and not for disposing of the cases. That apart, I challenge every member to say whether for the last three years any judge of the High Court left court earlier than before 5 P. M. and sat later than 11-30 A. M. They sit for a long time and do more than a full day's work. They have to do departmental work also. I may say that, when a modification was proposed in the High Court Regulation to invest the Chief Justice with some power, there was a lot of opposition

in this House. I therefore take it that this House is agreed that the control of the subordinate courts should vest in the High Court as a body and this also takes some time. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai wanted me to go into the statistics for 1081 to 1090. I do not think I need trouble the House as Mr. Raman Pillai has the statistics volume in his hand and he has not been sparingly using the same.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The facts are important and the statistics are required by every member.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Every member has got a statistical volume with him. However, I will give the figures for the last 4 or 5 years. At the close of 1094 the number of first appeals pending was 629, of 1095, 572; 1096, 457; 1097, 610, and up to 18th Karkatakam this year, 859. So far as second appeals objection petitions and civil miscellaneous appeals are concerned, the number disposed of was 761 in 1094, 720 in 1095, 925 in 1096, 721 in 1097. Of late, the revision petitions and miscellaneous petitions have also increased and from the fact that 1649 petitions were disposed of in 1094, 1625 in 1095, 1785 in 1096, and 1678 in 1097, it will be found that work has increased in this direction also. Of the above, the civil revision petitions disposed of were 239 in 1095, 402 in 1096 and 312 in 1097.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Subba Aiyar what is the percentage of revision petitions presented to the High Court that have been allowed?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have not noted the exact percentage but I may refer the member to the statistics volume which contains the information. So far as criminal work is concerned, there is also an increase and they include referred cases and revision petitions also. Going to the duration of appeals disposed of, we find that, at the end of 1094, there were 629 first appeals, of which 178 were more than one year old, 33 more than two years old, 5 more than three years old and 22 even more than four years old. At the end of 1097, the number of old appeals pending was considerably reduced and so far as first appeals were concerned, the number more than three years old was *nil*, while the number of first appeals more than two years old was only eight. There was no second appeal which was more than one year old, so that the work in the High Court was practically current. With regard to the boarding of a large number of cases which Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai referred to, I may remind him that it is only done for the purpose of seeing that the Judges have the requisite number of cases to engage them till evening. If there is a smaller number of cases posted, it may be that owing to the illness of a Vakil or to other cause, the cases for the day may have to be adjourned and the Judges will have to go away earlier for want of work to engage them. In order to see that such a contingency does not arise, a very large number of cases is posted for the same day.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask the Law Member whether this House ever suggested that Judges should not leave the court before 5 P. M?

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Though the suggestion was not pointedly made, it was stated in the House that the amount of work turned out is not enough. If even after working till 5 P. M. the work is subjected to so much criticism, I do not know what Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai will say if they rise earlier. At the end of 1097, it will be found that the number of appeals more than two years old was only eight.

But when we come to 1098, the number of appeals pending now has considerably gone up, and every member of the House knows the reason for that. An important appeal engaged the attention of the three judges of the High Court for about four months. I believe it took about a month more and the result of it is that on the 18th Karkatakam 1098 we have 859 first appeals and 736 second appeals pending. I believe this is the largest number for the last 5 or 6 years that was pending before the High Court. There are 25 appeals more than 2 years old and 3 more than 3 years old. So that it is absolutely necessary that the Third Bench should continue and I daresay that, but for the fact that I referred to, namely, three Judges had to work in a single case for over four months, the work in the High Court would have become current.

Now at any rate, we see the pendency is very high and there are appeals which are more than two and three years old. In these circumstances I do not think the House will say that the necessity for the continuance of the Third Bench is not made out. It is rather hard upon the litigant public to say that their cases will be boarded five years later. I hope the House will have no hesitation to reject this motion.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2-5 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, with respect to the question of the continuance of the Third Bench of the High Court, though Mr. Subba Aiyar gave us an explanation why the continuance should be acquiesced in by the House, there are some aspects which call for consideration by the House. In the first place, to cope with the increasing work of the High Court, the High Court itself has adopted certain measures. That is, in the matter of first and second appeals, they have insisted, in order to facilitate the work of the High Court, that almost all the important papers in connection with the appeals should be printed. Therefore, the necessity to wade through undecipherable manuscript copies does not arise, and considerable facility is afforded to the High Court in that respect. So the litigant public, I am submitting, are thus taxed indirectly by the High Court in the matter of these appeals. That is an aspect of the question which we shall not be justified in losing sight of. Thus, in one way, there is an amount of indirect taxation so far as the litigant public are

concerned. In another way, we are calling upon the general taxpayer to pay for the continuance of the Third Bench. I feel, Sir, that the High Court cannot be allowed to have it both ways. The learned Judges should take into consideration the increased taxation in the matter of hearing appeals before the High Court, entailed by the requirements relating to the printing of papers. I wish to draw attention to this aspect of the matter and enquire whether the High Court cannot proceed in the old way as they used to do. Here it is really the question of the general taxpayer that has to be taken into consideration; and he is being subjected to an undue amount of taxation, so far as the cases before the High Court are concerned. It may be, as Mr. Subba Aiyar put it, that now-a-days the length of argument in Courts is generally not on the wane but the other way. It may be that the Judges are confronted with an increasing quantity of precedents. All that may be true. Neither do we say that the Judges are whiling away their time. But, it is certainly for us to look into the question and try earnestly to reduce as far as possible the incidence of taxation in various ways to which the litigant public are now exposed. This is a point about which this House is pressing for an explanation. The facts urged by Mr. Subba Aiyar do bring no solace to us; and the line of argument followed by the Law Member for the retention of the Third Bench does not even cheer us by holding out any hope of its future extinction; for, he says that, in view of the output of legal precedents and in view of the growing length of arguments and so forth, the chances are that the Third Bench has really come to stay. This question was pointedly raised by me at the time of the amendment of the High Court Regulation; and Mr. Subba Aiyar said that it was sufficient to provide in that regulation for a minimum of four Judges and that the chances were that we might not have to appoint additional Judges. Mr. Subba Aiyar's line of argument to-day is the other way. Therefore, to allow this precedent to become rooted, so far as we are concerned, is a painful thing and a disaster. With respect to the continuance or the retention of the Third Bench, we object, not out of anything like cussedness in the matter, but because we feel that it is a *real* grievance so far as the taxpayer is concerned. It behoves the Government to go into the question more minutely and see whether, as a matter of fact, it is not possible for the Government to afford the necessary relief to the litigant public without resorting to the perpetual continuance of this Third Bench. These are the points that I have to submit in connection with this subject. With these observations, I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, the Law Member was telling us, as a justification for the continuance of the Third Bench, that the file in the High Court is heavy and that it has become increasingly heavy. The question that I asked him and that I would still ask him is, is this increase due to the low out-turn of work by the High Court Judges, or to the increase in the number of suits that are instituted year after year? For that purpose, I asked the learned Law Member to compare the statistics of suits instituted during the two

[Mr. V. Subba Aiya.]

periods of 1086 to 1092 and 1092 to 1098 and pointed out to him that the Third Bench was for the first time constituted in 1092 and that it would be a source of satisfaction to the House and the public if he would tell us whether the average number of suits instituted remains the same or has increased year by year. He has declined to favour the House with the statistics. We know the Law Member is versed in hard facts and on complicated questions of law; and his refusal to place before the House these facts leads one to the inevitable inference that, if produced, they would go against the position he has taken up. I may tell the Law Member that the average number of first and second appeals filed in the High Court annually during the two periods I mentioned remains stationary. It is 1,036. So that if the work in the High Court is increasing, I contend that it is because the Judges are not doing their work; and in reply to that it has been whispered here that the High Court Judges attend Court from 11 to 5. It is for them to say how six Judges are not able to turn out an amount of work proportionate to what four Judges in the past had been turning out. The percentages of disposal for these two periods are 48 and 50 respectively. In 1092, two additional Judges were appointed. The percentage of disposal has gone up only by two per cent. That evidently shows that, in spite of their regular attendance, they have not been able to turn out as much work as the Judges of the good old days were able to do. Again, I asked him to tell us the principle upon which the Third Bench was constituted and is allowed to continue. I may point out to the Law Member that, in the years 1089 and 1090, the number of cases pending was only 911 and 1,117 respectively. It was noted by the Council that, in 1093 and 1094, the number of cases was respectively 967 and 1,167. It remains for the Law Member to say why a Third Bench was retained in these years 1093 and 1094. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has already pointed out that this Third Bench has come to stay. We find that every year the provision is made temporarily for one year. It is seen from a foot-note in the year's budget that provision is made for the continuance of the Third Bench for the whole of the year 1099. I submit there is absolutely no justification for retaining this Third Bench in the High Court any longer. At any rate, it is time to make a revision of our ideas whether these temporary Judges we have may not be asked to turn out better work by any other arrangement. After all they are only temporary. Of course, the Law Member, like a clever lawyer, will tell the House that the work of the High Court is onerous and that the vakils and the law reports are partly responsible for the delay. Well, it is only an argument for its own sake and I do not think I need refer to it. For these reasons, I press the motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, the work of the High Court does not exactly depend upon the number of cases disposed of in any year and therefore cannot be judged by that. My friend complains that I have not given figures. I think I gave him some figures, enough to convince the House of the necessity

for the continuance of the Third Bench in the High Court. At the discussion of the last budget, when there were only 1075 cases pending, we thought it was necessary to continue the Third Bench. The number has now gone up to 1595. Further, there was the special circumstance that one Bench was fully engaged in a big case for about four months. Therefore, I thought much argument was not necessary. If my friend would insist on my giving some figures, I have not the slightest objection to do so. In the year 1081, there were 754 appeals filed. In 1086 the file was only 906. After that the file has considerably gone up. In 1093 the number of first appeals pending more than 2 years old was 74, in 1094 it was 60, in 1095 it was 67, in 1096 it was 20 and in 1097 it came down to 8. Everybody knows that these old cases are very tough and will engage a Bench for very many days. I emphasise the fact that in 1096 the number was considerably reduced—to 20—and at the end of 1097 there were only 8 appeals pending for overtwo years. But the High Court were not in a position to say what the nature of the work for 1097 would be and I also hinted at the time of the last budget that, from the peculiar nature of the Church Case, it might engage the attention of the High Court for some months and therefore it was necessary to continue the Third Bench. I said it might take the Judges about a month. But now, as a matter of fact, we find that that case actually took four months, not to speak of the time taken by one of the Judges to write the judgment. In consequence of this, the number of old appeals pending has risen. We have yet another case, *viz.*, the Poonjar Appeal, which is likely to take not less than a month. We do not know how much time it is going to take. Apart from this, the work of the High Court has been, as I said, very satisfactory. In spite of the fact that all the Judges have been very regular in their attendance and that all of them have been working from 11-30 A. M. to 5 P. M. on all days they have not been able to reduce the number of pending cases. For these reasons, I think the continuance of the Third Bench is absolutely necessary and I leave it to the House to decide whether my demand is unreasonable and whether the Third Bench should continue or not.

As to how long the Third Bench will continue, I may tell the House that the moment it is found unnecessary and undesirable to have it, that moment it will be stopped. Now we have 1,595 cases pending. Out of these, 22 cases are more than three years old and three more than three years old. The moment arrears are cleared and the Third Bench is found unnecessary, it will be abolished.

With reference to the printing charges referred to by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, I beg to submit that that is an argument which only supports my case. Because even when all the pleadings, appeal memos and other papers are printed, the judges are not able to cope with the work and the arrears have accumulated. If we want to relieve the litigants in the matter of the cost of printing, the result will be that the Judges will be able to dispose of only a less number of cases and the delay in the administration of justice will be considerably greater. Of course, that is a matter which has to be placed before the High Court. If they think that it is not necessary——

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish to know whether it would not be possible to allot a certain sum of money, year after year, and distribute it to the various judges according to the number of cases dispose of by each of them.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know whether the piece-work system could be applied to the administration of justice and that to the highest tribunal of the State, where the judges have to preserve the highest amount of judicial independence irrespective of the length of time taken up for disposal of cases. They are there to settle disputes between litigants——

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether there could be any objection to allot a specified number of pending cases to each of the temporary Judges so as to leave the normal file to the permanent Judges.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not think that is possible. Because, the distribution of cases is done by the Chief Justice and he takes particular care that a fair distribution is made. There may be tough cases both in the current file and among the old cases. It would be unfair if all the old cases were given to the temporary Judges. It will not be possible for them to dispose of cases which they themselves have tried. I do not believe there has been any complaint for the past so many years either from the Bar or from the litigant public as to the distribution of cases in the High Court. I do not think that this is a very serious matter and the distribution of the work may be left to the Chief Justice as is done now.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): If the Law Member would assure the House that it is only for this year, I have no objection to withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: The Law Member has assured you already that the Court is temporary and is *only* temporary.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Hoping that the assurance will turn out to be true, I may be permitted to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 194.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

194. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,236 for temporary clerks, etc.

Motion 195.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

195. To omit the allotment of Rs. 450 for printing and binding T. L. R's.

Sir, the T. L. R. is a Government publication and the Government maintain a press at heavy cost for printing Government publications. Still the T. L. R's. are now printed in a private press. As a member of the Press Committee I had opportunities of inspecting the Government Press and I found that there is no sufficient work for the men engaged in the Press. If sufficient work is not given to the employees of the Press, they will have to be dispensed with and the materials which are used in the Press will rust. The Government have purchased a Linotype machine at a very heavy cost of about Rs. 12,000 or more and the out-turn of the machine is eleven pages per month against the expected outturn of 250 pages. The Superintendent and the expert member of the Press Committee are of opinion that if the T. L. R. and other English publications are printed in the Government Press there will be sufficient matter for the employees and the cost of this publication could be reduced. In order to make this suggestion I sent up this motion.

PRESIDENT: I think the next motion is identical with this.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes Sir, and I have nothing more to say on the motion.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The T. L. R. is now printed in the *Western Star* Press, because it was found that the Government Press was not in a position to cope with the work.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I wish to know whether the Superintendent of the Government Press has certified that it cannot be printed in the Government Press.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know. This was not done recently. The T. L. R. has, for many years past, been printed in the *Western Star* Press; but, if after receiving the report of the Press Committee, Government are of opinion that there is scope for further work in the Government Press, certainly that opportunity will be availed of and the T. L. R. will be printed in the Government Press. As it is, there is no contract with the *Western Star* Press for a term of years and at any moment we can stop printing the T. L. R. there. As soon as we get the opportunity of printing the T. L. R. in the Government Press it will be availed of, because I do not think there is anything to bind us down to a particular press. At any moment it can be stopped.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In the light of the explanation offered I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 196 to 199.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

196. To reduce the allotment of Rs 450 for printing and binding T. L. R's. by Rs. 5

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

197. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 600 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 300.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

198. To omit the allotment of Rs. 990 for hot weather charges.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

199. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 900 for office expenses by Rs. 700.

Motion 200.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

200. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,647 for High Court by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the succeeding motions of Messrs. Nidiry and Kumara Pillai are identical?

MR J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): It remains to be seen. I must hear Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): My object in sending up this motion is to give the Council an opportunity of discussing one or two matters which affect the efficiency of judicial administration. We have already discussed the superfluity of the Third Bench of the High Court and the unsatisfactory nature of the work done by them. It remains for me to draw the attention of the Council to the system of recruitment of Judges and Munsiffs adopted at present. I would urge on the Government the absolute necessity of fixing a definite proportion for recruitment from members of the Bar. No doubt, some recruitment is even now made from the Bar. But, there ought to be a definite principle by which a certain fixed proportion of the Judges in the High Court, the District Judges and Munsiffs are recruited from the Bar.

PRESIDENT: We are now dealing with the High Court only.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I may say that, since the recruitment of District Judges and of Munsiffs is done on the recommendations of the High Court, I am in order in pointing out that in the discussion of the general principle.

PRESIDENT: I do not think so, Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have got two other motions also both for the District Courts and for the Munsiffs' Courts. With regard to the Munsiffs' Courts, at any rate, there must be a definite principle. The system adopted now is this: if it is found inconvenient to promote a District Judge, resort is made to the Bar. At the time the High Court Regulation came up for discussion, I believe this matter was discussed; and then we were told that no statutory provision need be made although it is obtaining in Madras and other places. In promoting the District Judges to the High Court also, there must be

some principle. Mere seniority ought not to be the criterion for promoting a District Judge to the High Court; and what is more important is that a District Judge who is condemned by one administration ought not to find a place in the High Court during another. It considerably impairs the efficiency of work in the High Court. Much of what we had to complain about the output of the Third Bench in the High Court is due to recruitment of that kind. I have also to point out to the House that, on account of this indiscriminate recruitment, the Judges of the High Court are not commanding that respect and reputation which they ought to. At the same time, in recruiting the members of the Bar, the authorities ought to see that the aspiration of the lawyer for judicial position is governed by an impartial estimate of his ability to do honor to the post, and not by a desire to get the distinction and emoluments that that position might bring him. That is an important consideration which ought always to be kept in view. I submit that, on account of the system of recruitment, the High Court has gone down in the estimation of the public. The popular impression about the High Court can be very easily seen from the series of articles that appeared in the *Malayala Manorama* regarding the decision of the High Court in the *Vattippanam* Case.

PRESIDENT: You are out of order. Any reflection regarding the decision of the courts of justice in Travancore is out of order.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I point out, Sir, that we are justified even in commenting upon a particular judgment of the High Court? It is the liberty of the press and the ordinary platform, not to speak of the platform here, to criticise judgments so long as we keep within limits. On the other hand, I am only drawing the attention of this Council to a series of statements made by one of the leading papers of this country.

PRESIDENT: You did make a reflection upon the decision of a court of justice. Under the rule, as it stands, I think this reflection is out of order. I must request you to desist from doing so.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to submit that, if that be so, the whole discussion regarding this Demand will relate to the conduct of the High Court.

PRESIDENT: I do not think so. My ruling is that it is not so. Reflections upon courts of justice, either as regards the decisions in particular cases or decisions in general, are out of order.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Passing on, I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the High Court do not properly watch and control the judiciary under them. In their review of the work of the judiciary in 1095, the High Court observe:

"The continued rising of arrears, particularly of old suits and appeals, in most of the courts is highly unsatisfactory. The Judges and Munsiffs concerned will put forth their best endeavours and clear off long-standing cases and bring down arrears of old cases to normal condition before the close of the current year. The High Court are constrained to remark that serious notice will be taken of those officers who fail to show good work in the current year".

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

This would put the public to understand that, in cases of dereliction of duty or low out-turn, the High Court will take very serious notice of the conduct of the lower courts. But, in the review of the administration of justice in 1096, the High Court remarked:

'The continued failure of the District Judges as a body to keep abreast of the files, the consequent accumulation of arrears of old cases, congestion of arrears in some of the District and Munsiffs' Courts, the abnormal pendency of old suits in a good number of Munsiffs' Courts, the general falling off in the quality of work of the District Judges, are some of the unsatisfactory features in the operations of the District and Munsiffs' Courts during 1096. It need hardly be said that a decided improvement in all directions is expected from the Judges and Munsiffs from the end of the current year."

What I have to point out to the Council is that the High Court seem to have climbed down, contrary to the expectations of the people. In 1097, they grew still milder. This is what they say:

"Continued rising in arrears, particularly of old suits and appeals, in most of the District Courts is a very unsatisfactory feature of the operations of the District Courts during the year. As regards the operations of the Munsiffs' Courts, though the number of suits of over one year's duration showed appreciable reduction, those of two years standing were in the ascendant in 17 courts. Taken as a whole, it can only be said that the efforts put forth by the temporary courts were adequate only to check the rise. It is hoped that the arrears of old suits and appeals will be considerably brought down at the end of the current year."

Then, as for taking serious notice of slackness in work, compared to the other departments—the Land Revenue Department for example—we see every other week some Tahsildar or other getting into trouble. There is no reason why the Temporary Munsiffs and Second Judges and all the rest of them, who are entertained year after year as their colleagues leave matters in arrears, should not also be meted out the same treatment and that their delay should not be twisted into action by the High Court. The only inference that the public would make is that the Judges and Munsiffs are creatures of some High Court Judge or other. Recruitment is made according to the recommendation of one Judge or other; and if one Munsiff is handed over for punishment, it will go against the wishes of one of the colleagues, and if another is handed over, another colleague will object to the punishment. In that way, expectation of any serious notice dwindles down to nothing. What the state of affairs in 1098 is, we do not know, because these returns are published very late. Even the quarterly reviews of the High Court for the work in 1097, are published in 1098, so that they are useless to the public and these directions are useless to the officers concerned also.

Then again as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai pointed out, the High Court are not lightening the burden of the taxpayer. The Salaries Committee, as I have twice or thrice mentioned, consisting of the Financial Secretary to the Government, the Deputy President of this Council, and one other, Mr. John Nidiry, an old member of the Legislative Council and presided over by the Efficiency Audit Officer, recommended that the place of the Deputy Registrar in the High Court

was superfluous; but the High Court insisted on having the Deputy Registrar along with the Registrar and the Manager. They go still further. Ordinarily, it is the senior Munsiff who ought to be promoted as the Registrar. But, instead of promoting him, they have now appointed a Second Judge to the post of the Registrar, necessitating additional personal allowance to the present incumbent.

Similarly also, in the matter of appointments made in the High Court, the interpellations made in this Council will show that things are not what they ought to be. We have heard of Judges fighting with each other in Departmental Full Bench meetings over the appointment of seven-rupee peons or twelve-rupee clerks and some getting out from the Full Bench in protest and so forth. (*Laughter.*) It is a matter for great regret that these people to whom the life and property of the subjects are entrusted should fall out at each other's throat for petty matters like this. It is no wonder therefore that people doubt whether their matters are safe in such hands. The High Court are prepared, as their recent production of the Civil Courts' Guide indicates, to go beyond the powers vested in them by the legislature and enact rules which are *ultra vires.* I need not trouble the House any further with details. Probably some of my colleagues, legal practitioners, might get up and say that recently several rules which are *ultra vires* have been passed by the High Court.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, when the High Court Regulation was discussed the question was definitely raised that the recruitment from the Bar should bear a definite proportion to the number of Judges in the High Court. The question was discussed at sufficient length and it was ultimately decided by the Council that no proportion ought to be fixed and that the appointment should be left to the discretion of the Government. It will therefore appear that the House is practically agreed that no hard and fast rule should be made as to what proportion should be fixed. The only question then is whether there should be recruitment from the Bar or not. So far as that is concerned, Government have been recruiting from the Bar and we know it as a matter of fact, recently in two instances. As a matter of fact, there was absolutely no such instance, I believe, eight or ten years ago, and all the recruitment then was direct by promotion from the judiciary. I believe Mr. Raman Pillai will concede that the High Court *was* commanding respect even though the Judges were recruited from the subordinate ranks. So that, the fact that the subordinate Judges are promoted to the High Court cannot be a ground to say that recruitment is bad. On the other hand, if, taking into consideration capacity, character and other requisites that are absolutely necessary for a High Court Judge, Government are satisfied that the promotion of a District Judge to the appointment is desirable without resorting to the Bar, they will do it. As was pointed out, when the High Court Regulation Amendment Bill was discussed, the number of the judges to be appointed and the scope of selection from the Bar are very limited, and therefore in such cases, it must be

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

left to the discretion of Government. I do not think that is a matter for any serious complaint and it will not be proper to say that the recruitment should not be from the judiciary but only from the Bar. Then, so far as the inspection of the work of the subordinate courts is concerned, there is no doubt that the judges of the High Court are not in a position to inspect the subordinate courts when the courts are in full working. They are in a position to go on tour only during vacation time, because under the existing regulation it is not possible to do so otherwise. The High Court Regulation has been amended and I hope it will become law very soon. It enables the High Court to depute one of its judges to inspect any court and even pay surprise visits to see whether any Judge or any Munsiff is working properly; to know the nature of the cases that is tried, the complexity of the cases involved in the pendency list that the official might have submitted and see whether a court is working properly or not. In a case of that kind, Mr. Raman Pillai drew attention to some instances in the executive line where punishments are awarded to the officer for slackness of work and asked why the same should not be done in the case of judicial officers. In the first place, there are two vital differences between these two classes of officers. So far as the executive line is concerned, in most instances, it is the officer that is at fault. He could bring the work up to date. So far as the judicial work is concerned, a Judge or a Munsiff is not the sole master. I ask my brother members of the Bar to say in how many instances the production of documents was promptly made or the pleadings were promptly answered and they were ready really to examine witnesses. In many cases, litigants apply for adjournment. He takes process, the witnesses do not appear and the various steps prescribed in the Procedure Code have to be gone through. So, without the co-operation of the litigant public and the members of the Bar, it is not possible to dispose of any case. So, unless it is distinctly proved that the Munsiff or the Judge is solely responsible for the delay in the disposal of cases, it is not possible to punish him, and such a close scrutiny is impossible so far as the High Court is concerned unless there are more opportunities for inspection.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): If the subordinate judges are not responsible for the delay, why should the High Court pass strictures on them?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As far as possible to expedite and to see to their insisting upon the vakils co-operating.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What is the reason for the strictures becoming milder and milder?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is what I am explaining. Unless they are satisfied that a particular judge is grossly at fault in doing his duty it would not be possible to punish him. Further, in a judicial matter, it is entirely a matter of

judicial discretion to grant adjournments, to allow additional witnesses, and all that; and if judges are to be insisted on to hear cases on particular days, it will be rather difficult to get on with judicial administration. They must have sufficient discretion. As I said, unless one is grossly at fault, it is unnecessary and undesirable to interfere with the state of affairs, and I believe the High Court are perfectly right in not doing it.

As has been suggested, they will take the necessary action if after inspection a particular Judge or a Munsiff is found to be at fault. Mr. Raman Pillai then referred to the dispute between Judges of the High Court in the Full Bench meetings. I certainly do not possess the confidence which my friend Mr. Raman Pillai possesses as to what takes place actually in the departmental Full Bench meetings, because I always thought it was a confidential matter and only the result would be known outside. But he seems to know more of it. I am perfectly ignorant as to what takes place there and am not in possession of such information.

As regards the question of the Registrar, it is a matter of an officer which involves a certain amount of responsibility. There are many Munsiffs and the High Court take care to see which of them is efficient so far as capacity and willingness for ministerial work are concerned and whether they could have confidence in him and then a particular person is appointed. They should have sufficient discretion to select the person who can properly discharge the duties. I do not think that such discretion has been abused in any instance.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it considered to be judicial discretion to select an officer for an appointment?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The High Court must be satisfied about the officer who is selected for the post, because he has to bring to the notice of the High Court important matters of various kinds and he has to control the whole staff and should be one who knows ministerial work thoroughly and also possesses the requisite tact.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Government reserve to themselves a right of checking the necessity for a particular staff recommended by the High Court or not?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): So far as the pay is concerned, the appointment has to be sanctioned by the Government. Generally, Government sanction the recommendation; but if in any particular case the Government think that the discretion has not been properly used, they may interfere.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, the learned Law Member has adroitly traversed every allegation made by my friend Mr. Raman Pillai, but the case of my friend is as far as it was before the reply was given. As one who moved the amendment at the time when we were discussing the High Court Regulation

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Amendment Bill at the last session of the Council, I must continue to express my considered opinion and also the considered opinion of various organisations of Vakils throughout the country—the opinion expressed by several public men in Travancore—that the High Court Regulation ought to provide for a certain percentage of judges to be appointed directly from the Bar. At that time, however, Sir, there was some difference of opinion in regard to the necessity to have a rule of the like nature imported into the Statute. Therefore some of my friends found a little difficulty to support that position. I am very glad that those difficulties have been removed and this is a fit occasion to take up the question and discuss it once more so that we may come to a proper conclusion. It has been made out, at any rate, it has been attempted to make out, that the principle has been accepted and acted upon by the Travancore Government that a certain number of practising Vakils should be directly elevated to the High Court Bench. As far as I am aware—my memory does not go so far beyond as Mr. Subba Aiyar's, because I have not lived in this world as long as Mr. Subba Aiyar—I can remember only two instances, viz: Mr. K. G. Sesha Aiyar and the late Mr. Kochukrishna Marar who were directly elevated to the High Court Bench from our Bar. But I must express regret in that both these gentlemen were found fit by the Government for their position only when they were of advanced years, when they were 48 and 50 years old. I do not think they were able to give us the maximum benefit by their service, because they were elevated to the bench late in life when their energy began to fail. To pick out one man at one time from the Bar, another man at another time from the Bench in a fortuitous manner, without regard to principle goes against the very rule that Mr. Subba Aiyar wants to observe. Because, in the absence of a rule that a particular appointment at a particular time will be made from the Bar or from the service, the chances are that no man can be sure whether he is going to get a place or not. Several people, Sir, may be in the running. Several, of course, may not care to get the place. But some of those who are in the running will get the place. Because there is no knowing when this rule of recruiting direct from the Bar is going to operate, people in the service, especially those in the higher ranks, will not do as much work as they would otherwise do, because one fine morning their chance of promotion will be frustrated. Mr. Raman Pillai alluded to the fact that officers who were once considered unfit for promotion to the High Court have been subsequently promoted. He also said that gentlemen condemned during one administration should not be encouraged during another administration. I fail to see the force of that argument. I understand that promotion to the High Court Bench is one of the privileges of His Highness the Maha Raja, and His Highness' glorious reign has been continuing for more than 35 years. So that, the question of condemning an officer in one administration and encouraging him in another does not arise. I must also say, Sir, that in the case

of a particular officer, although the Travancore Government passed severe rulings against him when he was promoted from a particular appointment at every turn, although it was laid down in the most rigorous and accurate language that thus far he should go, and no further, it was found that such a gentleman was fit to occupy one of the highest posts in the highest tribunal. I am adverting to this, because the Government strutted into the difficulty from which they want to sneak out.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I say, Sir, that that is an instance which will support my contention?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is for me to accept the interpretation put upon my words. I understand what I am saying and I am prepared to take the risk. (*Laughter.*) I know instances where particular men who were ripe enough for promotion as District Judges were not given that appointment because they were not graduates, and these non-graduates have been subsequently lifted to positions which were for a long time denied to them. My point therefore is that there is a good deal of uncertainty in this matter. People are not given the assurance that, if they do their work properly, they will earn their promotion in a legitimate measure. This is one reason why the out-turn of work in the subordinate courts is not as good as it should be.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I point out to Mr. Velu Pillai—say that a Munsiff or a Judge is recruited from the Bar for the District Court and he is a very competent man and he has service—would it not be an injustice to him, if his claims are overlooked by selecting another man to the High Court?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): All our rights as human beings depend upon the law, so that when a man in the subordinate service is satisfied and is prepared to accept the lot under which he claims to be appointed—so that when a man accepts a subordinate place with his eyes open, he does so with a full knowledge that there is a wise provision relating to promotions in the Travancore State; and he cannot therefore complain of the results of such choise.

Another point I wish to press before the Council is that the work of the subordinate judiciary is going on from bad to worse and that has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt by the figures and arguments given to us by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai. As he has observed, communal and other considerations predominate at the time people are appointed to judicial posts. I do not dwell upon this question any further; but I express a hope that in the recruitment of the judiciary, communal considerations will not prejudice the High Court and the Government. As I said this morning, all communities should alike be improved. No community should be refused any of their rights and privileges of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja. If, simply for the reason that there is a man belonging to a depressed community who occupies a lesser position, he is given the next place, I think the wings of ambition will be clipped and

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

the spirit of enthusiasm of officers will be completely chilled. Apart from the question of the judiciary—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to say that there is no—

PRESIDENT: Are you putting a question?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg your pardon, Sir.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I anticipated Mr. Hoogewerf's point about the efficiency of the service. I am not at all for negativing the efficiency of the service. It is a paramount consideration.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have got only one more word to say. Distance and discipline is necessary for judicial officers no less than for others. If a High Court Judge finds pleasure in regattas or hunting parties arranged by his subordinates, during his tour of inspection, the Munsiff will lose his fear of the High Court Judge and the Judge will have some fascination for the Munsiff. (*Laughter.*) It was for this reason that Sir Lawrence Jenkins, the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, declined to be a society man. Now, Sir, if the members of the High Court Bench realised this, they would not like to pay friendly visits to Munsiffs and others while on tour. I am sure these Munsiffs will then be able to turn out very much more work. Then the Government is—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I move for a closure.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: Mr. Mammen Mappillai, have you anything to say?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I wish to say a few words on this question. The High Court of Travancore is the custodian of the lives and liberties of the people, and, therefore, in the recruitment of the Judges of the High Court it is a matter of the greatest importance that the best possible candidates should be chosen. A hard and fast rule that a certain percentage of the judges should be directly recruited from the bar and another fixed percentage should be from the service cannot be followed. We know the circumstances under which, for several reasons, it would be most desirable that the vacancies should be filled up from the service itself. Travancore is a small State and we know more or less the condition of the various persons who aspire to be High Court Judges. There may be, for instance, men of outstanding character at the bar and it may be a benefit to the State to promote them to the Bench. In all these cases, we have to depend upon the unbiassed and considered opinion of the Government and the High Court

in seeing that the best possible men are promoted to the High Court. The claims of seniority or the claims of the bar—all these should surely give way before the most paramount claims of justice being administered in the most efficient and impartial manner by the Judges of the High Court. We had a different kind of recruitment only recently. We have reason to think that a direct recruitment from the Bar has been tried in a few instances. Again, we were also recruiting Sub-Judges from British Indian service. Of course, all these different methods have given us some exceptionally fine Judges, and also some remarkable failures. Therefore, we cannot say that success or failure is the monopoly of any particular man or age. The natural inference that can be laid down is that the Government of to-day should exercise all possible scrutiny and the greatest care.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): wish to ask Mr. Mammen Mappillai if he is aware of the rules regarding appointments of judges in the British Indian High Courts.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): What applies to Madras need not necessarily be applicable to Travancore.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That was not my question. It was whether he is ignorant of these rules.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I am not aware of any such thing as to how the rule is viewed by the people there. With my experience of the conditions of my country I am bold enough to say that a hard and fast rule with regard to the recruitment would be surely unnecessary and undesirable in the interests of the proper administration of justice in the courts. That is my opinion.

With regard to the justification of Mr. Subba Aiyar that the delay in the disposal of cases is due to the roundabout methods in which Vakils and clients produce witnesses and records, I have to say something from my experience of the various mofussil courts, more or less. What is really the cause of the delay? We have some exceptionally smart officers in the Judicial Department. Wherever they go, we immediately find that there is a strict disposal of cases. The heavy arrears in certain courts are immediately cleared, the moment a particular officer is posted. On the other hand, we also find heavy arrears the moment a certain officer is transferred. There may be difficulties, but the chief cause for arrears accumulating in the courts is the laxity or incapacity of the officers concerned. I know of a particular officer whose method is to make it known to the Vakils, whenever he goes to a new Court, that he will not permit delay beyond a certain time in the production of witnesses and records. But, on the other hand, when a judicial officer has no method of his own, the Vakils can easily have their own way and there is no progress in his work. Therefore to say that the delay is all due to the litigants and the public is surely not justified by the circumtances as I find in the various mofussil courts. This is therefore what I have to say.

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask him if he is aware that in regard to the production of witnesses there are rules laid down by the Civil Procedure Code.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai knows I am not a lawyer. But, what I know is that, in certain courts, what I said obtains. Whether it may be due to my ignorance, I do not know. But I am quite positive that my statement is true in regard to certain courts.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyar moved for a closure and I will now put the question.

The closure motion was duly carried.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not make any further remarks.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, with reference to some observations made by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai as to recruitment, I have given only two instances where there was direct recruitment from the Bar to the High Court here. So far as he is concerned, I take it that he is for no restriction to the Travancore Bar, and therefore recruitment may be made even from outside.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to tell Mr. Subba Aiyar, as he is in possession of the House, I do not know how what I said some time ago in another connection arises now.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): References to recruitment from outside were also made by some; and if so I may cite instances where the late Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair, Mr. Raman Menon and Mr. Justice Chatfield were all recruited from outside.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am sorry I have to interrupt. I wish to offer a word of personal explanation. I made it very clear while speaking on the High Court Regulation that the rule ordinarily obtaining in Travancore is that, when there are men in Travancore recognised by Government as efficient, only Travancoreans will be appointed. In case there is dearth of such men here, and in case there is a man of outstanding personality outside, who is prepared to accept that work for the low salary we give, I am not for restricting the appointment to Travancoreans. That is what I have stated.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Then with reference to the supersession of some in one administration and their appointment in another administration, I do not propose to go into the merits of the question. There cannot be any hard and fast rule in the matter if we take a more general view of it. It is a matter of common knowledge that in some instances one officer may be superseded by another of superior merit and this does not mean that the officer superseded will not be in a position to supersede another, or that if

he is once superseded, his legitimate claims should thereafter be for ever completely ignored. This is a position which nobody will advocate. Unless an officer is declared or found unfit for promotion, Government will not be justified in ignoring his claims when the necessity for it arises.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why Mr. Bhutalingam Aiyar was superseded by Mr. Venkatarama Aiyar?

PRESIDENT: We cannot discuss particular instances here.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Then, going to the question of communal recruitment, other conditions being equal, it will be conceded by the House that, if a community is not properly represented in the public service, that community might have a chance. Members of that community should be given preference to persons whose community is sufficiently represented in the service. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said that some of the judges were very sociable, that they go on hunting excursions and all that. I do not know whether in these democratic days people would desire that the judges should be unsociable animals and should not move with the members of the Bar or Munsiffs.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I never said that there should be no kind of social intercourse between the Judges and their subordinates. I object to a High Court Judge in his inspection tour visiting mofussil Munsiffs in their houses and having more than ordinary intercourse. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Even with respect to the Munsiff contemplated by my friend, he is the highest officer in the mofussil and therefore a High Court Judge on circuit may not have anybody else to talk to. All these are on the presupposition that the character of the High Court Judge is impeachable. But once we grant that he is a man of character and alive to his sense of responsibility, I do not know what disadvantage or difficulty will arise if he moves very freely with the subordinates. Should a Judge of the High Court not move with others or even attend clubs? Have we come to that?

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether Mr. Subba Aiyar moves on terms of equality with his clerks.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I hope so. You must ask my clerks. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, do you press this motion?

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 201.

Mr. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): My object in sending this motion was to draw the attention of the

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

House with regard to one point, *i. e.*, with regard to the laxity exhibited by the High Court in the matter of supervision. That has been the subject matter of the previous speakers and since it has been sufficiently discussed, I do not make the motion that stands in my name.

The following motion was accordingly not moved :—

201. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53, 364 for High Court by Rs. 100.

Motion 202.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

202. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,647 for High Court by Rs. 100.

ജനങ്ങൾ പകൽസമയം പലേ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടും പലേ സംഗതികളിലും പെരുമാറി പലവിധമായ മനോവേദനകൾ അനുഭവിച്ചു രാത്രികാലങ്ങളിൽ ഉറങ്ങാനായി കിടക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കു ഹൈക്കോടതിയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സമാധാനം അവരുടെ സുഖമായ ഉറക്കത്തിന് കാരണമായിത്തീരുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അവരുടെ ജീവിതദശയിലുണ്ടായിവരുന്ന സങ്കടങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്നതിനും, അവരുടെ സ്വത്തിനും ദേഹത്തിനും രക്ഷകിട്ടുന്നതിനും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഹൈക്കോടതിയാണ് ആശ്രയമായിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ നിസ്സാരമായ പ്രവൃത്തികളിൽപോലും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് സംശയമോ ശങ്കയോ ഉണ്ടാവാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല. ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ നിയമനങ്ങളിൽ ന്യായരഹിതതയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംശയം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരന്നിരിക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ശുഭകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ രജിസ്ത്രാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത് നിയമിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടിയ ജോലിനടത്തിപ്പിനുവേണ്ടി അവക്കു യുക്തമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നവരെ നിയമിക്കാനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് മിസ്റ്റർ സുബ്ബയ്യർ സ്വല്പംമുമ്പു പറകയുണ്ടായി. ആ അഭിപ്രായം ന്യായമാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാം. ഹൈക്കോടതി രജിസ്ത്രാരായി ഒരു സീനിയർ മുൻസിഫിനെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഒരിക്കൽ ഹൈക്കോടതി രജിസ്ത്രാർജോലി ഒഴിവുവന്നപ്പോൾ ൩൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ളതും ന്യായമായ അവകാശിയുമായ ആളെ നിയമിക്കാതെ ൪൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരു ൨-ാം ജഡ്ജിയെ നിയമിച്ചു. അതിനു പകരം ജഡ്ജിയായി ൩൦൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള സീനിയർ മുൻസിപ്പിനെ നിയമിക്കയുംചെയ്തു. രണ്ടാമതായി റജിസ്ത്രാർജോലി ഒഴിവുവന്നപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയപ്രകാരമുള്ള

സീനിയർ മുൻസിഫിനെ അതിലേക്ക് നിയമിക്കാതെ മുമ്പു അവകാശിയായിരുന്ന രണ്ടാംജഡ്ജിയായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആളെയാണു രജിസ്ട്രാർജോലിക്കു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളാൽ അനാവശ്യമായി ശമ്പളചിലവുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്നു മാത്രമല്ല ഈ നിയമനങ്ങളിൽ പല ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങളും അന്തർഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

ഇതുപോലെ മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തംകൂടി പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. ബി.എ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയിയല്ലാത്ത ഒരാൾ ഹൈക്കോടതി മാനേജരായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ മറെറാരു ജോലിയിൽ തൽക്കാലത്തേക്കു നിയമിച്ചുവന്ന ഒഴിവിനു അതിൻെറ അടുത്ത സ്ഥാനക്കാരനായ അവിടത്തെ ഹെഡ്ക്ലാർക്കിനു ബി. എ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയിയല്ലെന്നുള്ള കാരണത്താൽ അതിലേക്കു നിയമിക്കാതെ അതിൻെറ അടുത്ത സ്ഥാനക്കാരനായ ഒരു ബി.എ ക്കാരനെയാണു നിയമിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയും അതിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശവും നല്ലതുതന്നെ എന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ബി. എ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളും ബി. എൽ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളും ഇവിടെ ധാരാളമുള്ളപ്പോൾ അവരെ തന്നെയാണ് നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. എന്നു മാത്രവുമല്ലാ ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ബി. എൽ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളെ തന്നെയാണ് നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിരജിസ്ട്രാറന്മാരായി ബി. എൽ. പരീക്ഷാവിജയികളെ മാത്രമെ നിയമിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിഷ്കൎഷിച്ചിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനു വിരോധമായി ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്ക് ഒരു അണ്ടർഗ്രാഡ്യേററിനെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് എങ്ങനെയാണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങൾക്കു വിപരീതമാണ് ഈ നിയമനമെന്നു മാത്രമല്ലാ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതുമല്ല. എന്നുതന്നെയല്ല ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങളിൽ മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ എങ്ങനെയെല്ലാം നടന്നുവരുന്നു എന്നിരുന്നാലും ഹൈക്കോടതിയിലെ നിയമനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകോദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഉള്ളതായി ഒരിക്കലും ജനങ്ങൾ സംശയിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇടയാക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. നമ്മുടെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ നിലയെ പരിരക്ഷിച്ചു കാണേണ്ട ചുമതല എല്ലാജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഇത്രയും സംഗതികൾ കൌൺസിലിൻെറ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. സിവിൽകോടതികളിൽ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ജോലികളെപററി എൻെറ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാരിൽ പലരും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഞാൻ പറയണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല.

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഗവർൺമെൻറു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സർവ്വോപരി ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടകാര്യം നീതിന്യായം ശരിയിയിനടത്തികൊടുക്ക എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ന്യായാസനത്തിൽ നിയമിക്കപ്പെടുന്നവർ ഏററവും കളങ്കമററ യോഗ്യന്മാരായിരിക്കണം. വൎഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതത്തിനോ, ധനത്തിനോ, മററുപ്രലോഭനങ്ങൾക്കോ അടിമപ്പെടാത്തവരേവേണം ആ സ്ഥാനത്തുവയ്ക്കാൻ. അതു ബാറിൽ നിന്നായാലും ശരി, കീഴിൽ നിന്നായാലുംശരി, സ്വദേശത്തുനിന്നായാലും ശരി, പരദേശത്തുനിന്നായാലും ശരി; ഉത്തമഗുണസമ്പന്നന്മാരെ തന്നെയാണ് ആ സ്ഥലത്തുകയററിവിടേണ്ടതു്. കുറേക്കാലം മുമ്പു ജഡ്ജി സദാശിവയ്യർ— ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ നിന്നൊരിക്കലും മാഞ്ഞുപോകാത്ത ആ ശ്രേഷ്ഠപുരുഷൻ— ഹൈക്കോടതിയെ അലങ്കരിക്ക ഉണ്ടായി. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള മഹാനുഭാവന്മാരെ മററുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽനിന്നായാലും തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തുവേണം ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽവയ്ക്കാൻ. ഹൈക്കോടതിയെ കീഴ്ക്കോടതിയിലുള്ള ന്യായാധിപന്മാൎക്കു ഭയവും ശങ്കയും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. തങ്ങളുടെ അകൃത്യങ്ങളെ മേൽക്കോടതിയിലെന്യായാധിപന്മാർ അറിയുമെന്നും ശാസിക്കുമെന്നും അവൎക്കു് ഓൎമ്മയുണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ കളങ്കരഹിതമായ ന്യായാധിപന്മാരെ ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ വയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ജഡ്ജിമാൎക്കും മുൻസിഫ്മാൎക്കും എല്ലാത്തരം മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടുമാൎക്കും ഹൈക്കോടതിയെ എപ്പോഴും ശങ്കിക്കയും ഭയപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഊൎജ്ജസ്വലന്മാരായ ആളുകൾതന്നെ ഹൈക്കോടതിയെ അലങ്കരിക്കണം. അങ്ങനെ അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം രാജ്യത്തിൽ ധൎമ്മം നശിച്ചുതുടങ്ങുന്നതിനും അധൎമ്മംബലപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകും. ഇക്കാൎയ്യം ഗവൺമെൻറു പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ഇത്രമാത്രമേ എനിക്കിതിനെപററി പറയാനുള്ളു.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, in supporting this motion, I wish to refer to some irregularities with regard to the appointments made in the High Court. I am sorry to find that the appointments made by the present Chief Justice have given rise to widespread complaint. It is highly regrettable that so much public talk should have been occasioned by one who should have commanded the complete confidence of the public. An analysis of the appointments made by him will show how far the charge of communal partiality attributed to him in this matter is true. When there were other graduate applicants he preferred a Brahmin undergraduate for a certain place. His explanation appears to be that it was an appointment in the undergraduate scale. Sir, when you know that the Chief Justice appointed, in this undergraduate grade, three graduates, one a B. L., along with this undergraduate, the error underlying this explanation would become apparent.

While there were acting and temporary clerks in the office, the Chief Justice appointed a fresh hand in a *sub. protem* vacancy and his explanation appears from the answer given to my interpellation on it, that that there is no difference between a *sub. protem* appointment and acting or temporary appointment.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are right. A temporary hand will get full pay.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): A temporary hand will not get promotion in the scale.

PRESIDENT: That is a different matter.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it unknown to this House that in the case of *sub. protem* appointments, the person is entitled to get the scale, while a temporary hand is not so entitled? This is therefore not a valid explanation. The Chief Justice appears not to care much for inconvenient Government circulars. When there was a circular that no fresh hands should be appointed as copyists, so long as there were disbanded men in the department, our Chief Justice who, even without a circular, is expected to do justice, appointed fresh hands in violation of the circular, thereby doing injustice to a large number of disbanded men. Can there be anything more unjust than this in the matter of appointments?

When the Registrar's place fell temporarily vacant twice, the Chief Justice recommended temporary judges on Rs. 400 to the place which carries only a pay of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 against the G. O. requiring senior Munsiffs to be appointed as Registrars while recommending senior Munsiffs getting Rs. 300 and Rs. 275 to the temporary Judge's place carrying a pay of Rs. 400.

One other point I wish to refer to is about the circuit programme of the vacation Judges. The Government pretend to have misunderstood my interpellation regarding this. The Government say the programme is fixed with reference to previous inspection. My question was why, when two courts that are to be inspected in the same year are close to one another, the vacation Judge, after inspection of one of these courts, goes away to the distant court without proceeding to the other neighbouring court. This system is undesirable. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." As a layman I fear to enter the precincts of the Temple of Justice—The High Court. I wish, however, to make a few general remarks about the communal question which has been touched upon in this Council. Charity covers a multitude of sins and in the name of efficiency many things are done. I was very glad to hear from the Law Member the clear enunciation of this very difficult question. I fully realise the difficulties of Government in this matter. I am one of those who always try to take a very broad and generous view of communal questions. Communal questions still remain and they have to be faced and solved. I do not want that efficiency

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

should be sacrificed in the interests of any particular community. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai spoke of preference. Christians, Mahomedans, Ezhavas and others do not want preferential treatment, except when efficiency is weighed against efficiency. We do not want certainly a Mahomedan, Christian or Ezhava Judge to supersede a Brahmin District Judge to a vacancy in the High Court. What we want is that when there are two District Judges—one a Mahomedan, Christian, or Ezhava and the other a Brahmin or Nair and all the Judges of the High Court are either Brahmins or Nairs,—preference should be given to the Mahomedan, Christian or Ezhava District Judge. I also want to say a word about recruitment to the High Court Judgeship. I was glad to see that the Law Member correctly explain this question also. Say a Munsiff or District Judge who has been recruited from the Bar and who has put in a long service, is a very efficient Judge. Is this Judge, who may be 50 years or so, to be superseded by a member of the Bar? I submit, it will be very hard if this is done.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to make one or two observations on the question of recruitment about which there has been so much discussion in this House. I want to deal particularly with one observation made by Mr. Subba Aiyar in connection with a previous motion as to what was the guiding principle of recruitment to the higher judiciary. It was said that Government fully accepted the principle of selecting members from the Bar to posts in the higher judiciary, when they found capacity and character combined in such members of the Bar. It was also suggested that the local Bar offered a limited sphere for such selection, and that, when such appointments and promotions were made, capacity and character being the guiding principles, it was rather difficult to find members from the Bar who would be so good as members of service.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I never said that—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): That was the import, at any rate, of his observation. I take serious exception to that. If Mr. Subba Aiyar disclaims the statement, I am satisfied. What was suggested evidently was that choice from the Bar was very limited in spite of there being so many members and therefore Government felt somewhat diffident. If Government do not feel any difficulty, I am satisfied indeed. But in practice, we do not find that principle being accepted or followed. As Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has said, there have been several strictures passed upon the subordinate judiciary and it will be interesting to investigate what action has been taken by the High Court in regard to the offences of their subordinates. As a matter of fact, we find them in due course promoted. That is a procedure which ought to be set at rest at least hereafter if we wish to secure the efficiency of the judicial administration.

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move for a closure.

The motion was duly carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I have nothing more to add.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I may say one or two words in reply to Mr. Kumara Pillai and Mr. M. N. Pillai. I think I have said enough about the promotion of the Registrar; and in the case of the Manager, I believe the permanent incumbent is one who was appointed very long ago and evidently in order to avoid difficulties in future, perhaps that appointment is now restricted to graduates or graduates in law. Mr. M N. Pillai has made some insinuations—rather open attacks—against the Chief Justice.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are the facts stated by him untrue?

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am coming to that. Mr. M. N. Pillai bases his accusations on three appointments made by the Chief Justice. The first of these is that an undergraduate was appointed in preference to a graduate. To one of the interpellations made by the member, I believe, it was answered that an undergraduate was preferred to a graduate in accordance with a rule passed by Government to that effect. The rule obtaining in the High Court, in the Account Office, and in the Huzur Secretariat is that for an appointment having an undergraduate's scale a graduate should not be appointed.

Mr. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether there were not graduates appointed in the High Court in the undergraduate scale then?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

Mr. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With reference to the appointments of new copyists when there were supernumeraries in the other departments, I daresay Mr. M. N. Pillai is ignorant of the fact that the High Court have been specially allowed to appoint their own copyists after absorbing all the supernumeraries in the Judicial Department. The High Court need not ascertain whether there are supernumeraries in the other departments before any copyists are appointed. Lastly, with reference to the appointment of a particular individual, there may be ever so many reasons. It was not suggested that the individual promoted is incompetent. Even in the case of other departments, if the head is satisfied with the work of a subordinate officer, he does promote him and he ought to do so. The Chief Justice is the highest judicial officer in the State. About his character and capacity, no doubt can be raised. In making accusations against that officer, one should be very careful. Mr. M. N. Pillai did not care to know that a graduate should not be appointed in an undergraduate

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

scale. He did not care to know that recruitment of copyists need not be from supernumeraries of other departments. His charge is thus based solely on the promotion given to a particular clerk. I repudiate very strongly the accusations and insinuations made by Mr. M. N. Pillai. I deplore highly that the member should have attributed motives, particularly communal partiality, to the highest Judicial officer of the State, not knowing about the clerk's promotion.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether what I said is a fact or not?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is a matter for regret that Mr. M. N. Pillai should have descended to this level of attributing partiality to the Chief Justice. Decorum requires that an unfounded accusation should not be made and that the character of the highest judicial officer should not be so lightly dealt with and so easily impugned upon flimsy grounds. I leave it at that.

Passing on to the remarks of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai about the recruitment from the Bar, I may say that I am proud to belong to the Bar and I am still a practising member of it. I should, therefore, be the very last person to say that there is no member of the Bar who possesses the requisite capacity and character to be elevated to be the judge of a High Court. What I did say was that, if a judicial officer has requisite capacity and character and service, and has legitimate claims for being promoted as Judge of the High Court, it will be cruel to ignore his long service and qualifications, and supersede him.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there may not be a continuity of such officers for ever?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Sirkar Head Vakil*): We cannot prophesy about it. Each particular case will have to be considered when it arises. But I may assure the House that the Government will devote their very serious consideration to recruitment whenever a vacancy occurs.

Motion 203.

The following motion was not made :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

203. To omit the allotment of Rs. 12,540 for temporary clerks, etc., for Judges' Courts.

Motion 204.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The matter has been sufficiently discussed when we considered the question of the continuance of the Third Bench in the High Court. I sent in this motion as a matter of protest against the appointment of temporary clerks. The motion has been aimed at the temporary District Judges and their staff. As the matter has been discussed threadbare, I do not wish to make the motion.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI :

204. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,540 for temporary clerks, etc., for Judges' Courts by Rs. 6,270.

Motion 205.

The following motion was not moved:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

205. To omit the allotment of Rs. 20,304 for temporary clerks, etc., for Munsiffs' Courts.

Motion 206.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

206. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,304 for temporary clerks, etc., for Munsiffs' Courts by Rs. 10,152.

நீதிஞாயக் கோர்டுகளில் குடிசகள் அதிகமாக கிடக்கிறதென்றும் முன் இந்த ஜட்ஜிகள் போதாமல் கூடுதலாக ஜட்ஜிகளும் முனிஸிப்புகளும் நியமித்திருக்கிறது. கோர்டுகள் கூடக்கூட கேஸுகளும் கூடிக்கொண்டே வருகிறது. தவிரவும் ஒரு ஜட்ஜியிருந்த இடத்தில் தானே கூடுதல் ஜட்ஜியும் ஒரு முனிஸிபு இருந்தயிடத்தில் தானே கூடுதல் முனிஸிப்பும் நியமித்திருக்கிறது. பின்னுக்கும் குடிசகள் கூடுதலாயி வர்த்தனை செய்கிறது. அதும் போதாமல் கூடுதலாக தற்காலம் முனிஸிப்புகளும் நியமிக்கிறதாக தெரிகிறது. குடிசகள் வருகிற காரியும் என்னவென்று தெரியவில்லை. உத்தியோகஸ்தன்மார்களுடைய சௌகரிய குறவினலோ அல்லது ஜனங்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தினலோ தெரியவில்லை. இதினால் கவர்ன்மென்றுக்கு நஷ்டமும் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டமும் ஏற்பட்டுக்கொண்டே வருகிறது. இப்போது தோவாளை, அகஸ்தீஸ்வரம் இரண்டு தாலூகாவுக்கு நாகர்கோவிலில் இரண்டு முனிஸிப்பும் கல்க்குளம், இரணியல் இரண்டுக்கும் தக்கலையில் இரண்டுமுனிஸிப்புகோர்டுகளும் நியமித்திருக்கிறது. இந்த இரண்டு ஸ்தலத்திலுமுள்ள முனிஸிப்பு கோர்டுகளுக்கும் கக்ஷிகள் 10, 12 மயில் தூரத்திலிருந்து வந்து ரெம்பவும் புத்திமுட்டி அடையவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. தவிரவும் தோவாளையில் முன்னாலே, பிராண்டியரில் ஒரு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்டும், மால மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்டு ஒன்று அழகியபாண்டியபுரத்திலும், தாலூக்கு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்டு ஒன்று பூதப்பாண்டியிலும் ஆகே மூன்று மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்டும் உண்டாயிருந்த இடத்தில் பின்னீடு ஒரு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்ட்டும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இப்போது அதுமில்லை, எல்லாத்திற்க்கும்கூடி ஒன்றுயிட்டு கோட்டார் மஜிஸ்ட்றேட் கோர்ட்டைத்தான் நியமித்திருக்கிறது. அதுபோலவே இரணியலில் ஒருமஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டும், கல்க்குளத்தில் ஒரு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டும், திருவட்டாற்றில் ஒரு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டும் உண்டாயிருந்தது. அதுகளையும் நிறுத்தி இரணியலில் தானே ஒரு மஜிஸ்ட்றேட்டு கோர்டு வைத்திருக்கிறது.

அதினால் ஜனங்களுக்கு ரெம்பவும் கஷ்டமும் நஷ்டமும் ஏற்பட்டுகொண்டே வருகிறது. அதினுடைய நிவர்த்திக்காக கூடுதல் முனி

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

ஸிப்புமாரை நியமிக்கிறதில் மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டு கோர்டுயிருந்து இப்போது இல்லாமலிருக்கிற இடங்களில் முன்ஸிபு மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டு கோர்டு நியமிக்கிறதாயிருந்தால் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு லாபமும் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டநிவர்த்தியும் உண்டாகும்.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I was not quite able to follow Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai.

PRESIDENT: He said that since there were not sufficient number of Magistrates' Courts in some taluks it would be better to have Munsiffs' Courts there. I think that was what you said, Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai?

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): I want the number of temporary Munsiffs to be reduced.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With reference to the reduction of the number of temporary Munsiffs, I may say, Sir, that the quantity of work turned out by the Munsiffs has not been on the increase. But it is explained that they have been attending to very old cases and therefore it was that they were not in a position to dispose of as many cases as they could possibly have done otherwise. I am perfectly willing to concede that the total number of cases disposed of by the Munsiffs is not as many as this House would expect of them.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from the Law Member whether the number of suits instituted was also not decreasing year by year?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, no. But in 1092 and 1094, there were very many suits filed; consequently there were arrears, and those arrears have not even yet been cleared; and until the arrears are cleared off, the number of suits filed in any particular year will not be any criterion for the continuance of the temporary Munsiffs. I may say that, so far as Travancore is concerned, our Munsiffs have been disposing of on an average 2,000 cases a year.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Has not the average been steadily decreasing from 1097?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. That is because they were tackling the old cases. The number must necessarily go down. In British India the number has never exceeded 2,000; in Mysore the average disposal of a Munsiff is only 1,500 cases. Our Munsiffs therefore are disposing of more cases; and, as far as possible, they are trying to get through old cases also every year. The particular point which Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai has pressed will, I may assure the Council, be particularly brought before the notice of the High Court and they will be requested to take the necessary steps to expedite the disposal of the cases with a view to reduce the number pending. At present there is a very large number of cases pending, and

without the continuance of the temporary Munsiffs it may not be possible to dispose of them. One thing has to be said to the credit of the Munsiffs, viz.: that, though they have not been doing as much work as they ought to in the matter of disposal of cases, they are doing good work in execution and are looking into the matter of the decrees being executed as early as possible and money realised. In 1093, they disposed of 83,601 applications, in 10.6, 89,139 cases and in 1097, 88,165. The amount of money realised was Rs. 14,91,269 in 1093 and in 1097 it amounted to Rs. 21,65,196.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I ask Mr. Subba Aiyar, regarding the quality of work turned out by the Munsiffs, whether the percentage of reversals is not on the increase?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is on account of the reduction in the number of cases disposed of. If the cases handled by the Munsiffs are very tough, there is a chance of the appellate court taking a different view and the decisions reversed by the appellate court. If the number of appeals be larger, then the percentage of such reversals will be smaller.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Might it not also be due to the inferior work turned out by the temporary Munsiffs?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May be. Munsiffs are only human beings and there is a difference between different Munsiffs. We cannot expect the same quality from all Munsiffs We have been appointing Munsiffs from various communities, and even in the same community human nature varies with each individual and we cannot expect all the Munsiffs to possess the same capacity.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is it not possible to devise a better system of selection?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The selection is entirely vested in the High Court and I believe they will sufficiently safeguard the interests of the public. Many wanted a Selection Board for recruitment to the public service and we have such a Board in the High Court.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know, Sir, whether they are not selecting Munsiffs on a communal basis?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The matter is wholly left to the High Court. If they think that a particular individual is well qualified, they appoint him.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Can the Government give any direction to them on the principle of recruitment?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is open to them to lay down any principle.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether Government have not already laid down certain principles?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I must confess my ignorance of that matter. Seeing that the recruitment is entirely left to the High Court, there need not be any alarm.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does it follow, from the fact that more money is realised in a particular year by the execution of decrees, that the suits are more valuable?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May be that. So far as the Munsiffs are concerned, they can dispose of suits the value of which is not over Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, the Law Member has been telling us that the High Court is entirely responsible for the recruitment of Munsiffs. In return, I have to tell him that the taxpayer is responsible for his payment.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No, it is not correct. It is not the taxpayer but the litigant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have absolutely no objection to accept it if he persists in the correction. But I must tell him that, as the representatives of the taxpayers, we have got a right to question whether, out of their hard-earned money, so many of these Munsiffs should be maintained. But for the official block which the Law Member is sure of, he would not have manipulated these figures in the fashion he has done. He has told the House that the disposal of suits by the Munsiffs has not been encouraging at all. He has also admitted that the institution of suits has gone down. You will find, from the statistics of 1094 to 1097, that the number of suits instituted in the Munsiffs' Courts has gone down from 75,000 to 64,000. That simply shows that these Temporary Munsiffs want only to stick on. They know very well which side of their bread is buttered. If they dispose of suits very speedily, they know the work they do will come to an end. We know what the High Court are doing. They do not care to see whether the vakils recruited as Munsiffs have conducted any original suits. The aspirants for Munsiffs' places are sure that the High Court will look to their case when the communal turn comes up. He is therefore recruited as a Munsiff and his business is only to stick on. A careful study of the statistics will reveal a painful matter to the taxpayer. Not only has the number of suits gone down, but the disposal too has gone down. The average is therefore very low. In the face of these facts how can the Law Member come to us and say that, unless he has got the strength of the official members on his side, the age of suits is also steadily on the decrease. It is on the increase. So also the average duration in the disposal of suits is also on the increase.

Regarding the quality of work, the Law Member has said that they are handling more complicated cases. I would like to refer to some statistics. But there is very little time at our disposal.

PRESIDENT: The time has already run out.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The quality of work is also going down. The percentages of reversals ranged from 29 to 32 in a year. And in spite of all these figures, if the Law Member tells us that the temporary Munsiffs are necessary, of course there is no helping it.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted is over. You have to close.

As for the official block, I may assure Mr. Raman Pillai that there are only 15 officials against 35 non-officials.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLI (*Quilon*): I have to shamefully admit that.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 207 to 235.

The following motions lapsed as the time allotted for the Demand had expired:

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

207. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,304 for temporary clerks, etc., for Munsiffs' Courts by Rs. 10,152.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

208. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,320 for 24 temporary copyists for Munsiffs' Courts.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

209. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,86,415 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 9,600.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

210. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,86,415 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

211. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,86,415 for Civil and Sessions Courts by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

212. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 800 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 400.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

213. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

214. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 900 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

215. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,200 for Criminal Courts by Rs. 100.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

216. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,200 for Criminal Courts by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

217. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 81,200 for Criminal Courts by Rs. 100.

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

218. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 575 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Re 300.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

219. To omit the allotment of Rs. 700 for contingencies in connection with the separation of the classes for the Pleadership course.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

220. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,074 for supplies, servic s and contingencies by Rs. 2,000.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

221. To reduce the allotment Rs. 3,074 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 2,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

222. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,046 for Law College and Hostel by Rs. 8,000.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

223. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,046 for Law College and Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

224. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,046 for Law College and Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

225. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,046 for Law College and Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

226. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,260 for temporary establishment for temporary Sirkar Vakils.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

227. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for fees to vakils.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

228. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for hot weather charges.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

229. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 550 for office expenses by Rs. 300.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

230. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,410 for law officers by Rs. 17,701.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

231. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,410 for law officers by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

232. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,410 for law officers by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

233. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·24 lakhs under Demand IX by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

234. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·24 lakhs under Demand IX by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

235. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·24 lakhs under Demand IX by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now place Demand IX—Administration of Justice—for Rs. 7·24 lakhs for the vote of the House. I hope the House sanctions it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No, Sir, I am against it. I press for a division.

PRESIDENT: There has been no cut and it is not a matter for vote. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand entirely.

The grant was made.

DEMAND X—CENTRAL PRISON.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for the vote of the House for a grant not exceeding Rs. 82,000 under Demand X—Central Prison.

Motions 236 to 238.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

236. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for the upkeep of fire engine by Rs. 1,500.

MR K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

237. To omit the allotment of Rs. 250 for purchase and repair of machines.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

238. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 400.

Motion 239.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following motion:—

239. To reduce the allotment Rs. 300 for honorarium to moral instructor by Rs. 5.

My desire is to ascertain from the Government side the sort of moral instruction that is being given, the nature of the instruction, and so forth.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, instruction in morals and religion is given in the Central Prison once a week, *i. e.*, on Sunday, by the members of the Salvation Army and another gentleman, Mr. K S. Narayana Aiyar.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Do the Government contemplate cutting out their punishment and handing over the prisoners to the Salvation Army if they undertake to look after them?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Is it compulsory on the prisoners that all of them should attend the instruction?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not obligatory on them to attend.

[President.]

PRESIDENT: I may mention, for your information, that prisoners who were reported well are being allowed to work under private employers.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is in the Reformatory, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Yes, I made a mistake.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 240.

PRESIDENT: This motion stands in the name of Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai. I do not see him here.

MR. K. P RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not think that the House need wait for him.

PRESIDENT: It need not.

The member being absent, the following motion was taken to have been not moved:—

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

240. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·82 lakh under Demand X by Rs. 100.

The Demand was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

PRESIDENT: The next Demand—XI Police—I am not taking now, as the Police Commissioner is absent for some unavoidable reason. We will proceed with Education, if the House has no objection.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I must submit that we are not prepared with motions on Education.

PRESIDENT: Then we may rise now and meet again at half past eleven to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 5-2 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 10th August, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, at Eleven thirty-five of the clock. The president was in the chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No 12.*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Travancore Government Debenture Loan of 1091.

135. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(i) the actual liabilities under the Travancore Debenture Loan of 1091 ; and

(ii) the advances made therefrom ?

(*b*) What is the nature of the advances so made ?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the rules in force regarding the transfer of these bonds cause inconvenience to the public ?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to modify these rules ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) (i) The total amount of the loan is B. Rs. 14,49,000.

(*a*) (ii) and (*b*) The loan was raised in connection with the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway extension and was utilised for that purpose.

(*c*) and (*d*) Government have no information. If the member will say in what respect the rules cause inconvenience, steps will be taken to remedy them.

G. P. T. 566. 310. 11-10-23.

[Mr. K. George.]

Interest on the Travancore Government Debenture Loan of 1091.

136. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state the balance of unpaid interest due on the Travancore debenture bonds from 1091 up to date?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The balance of interest remaining undrawn is Rs. 34,393.

Loan to the Travancore Sugars, Ltd.

137. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the nature of the loan granted to the Travancore Sugars, Ltd;

(*b*) the rate of interest; and

(*c*) the date fixed for repayment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No loan has been granted to the company. Government have only agreed to take up 25 per cent. of the total number of shares subject to certain conditions. (*Vide* G. O. R. Dis. No. 499 of 22, dated the 6th March, 1922, published in the Gazette dated the 14th March, 1922, and also the answer furnished to Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai's question No. 37 dated the 2nd August, 1922.)

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these questions do not arise.

State Life Insurance Fund.

138. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the actuarial valuation report of the State Life Insurance Fund?

(*b*) What is the basis of the valuation?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table?

(*d*) Is the fund to the credit of the Insurance Department sufficient for the policies in force?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state how and where the balance of Rs. 2,12,093 to the credit of this fund at the end of 1097 is invested?

(*f*) What was the rate of interest credited to this fund in 1097?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to throw this insurance open to all the people of Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The actuarial valuation report has been received by Government.

(*b*) The question regarding the basis of valuation is not understood.

(*c*) The report will be printed and then placed on the table.

(*d*) That is the opinion of the actuary.

(*e*) and (*f*) Rs. 1,42,500 had been ear-marked for the fund in 3½ per cent. Government of India securities from the surplus investments of the State. But, from the current year, the Government propose to give 4 per cent. interest out of General Revenues on the balances to the credit of the fund after reserving a small portion of the fund for meeting the current expenses.

(*g*) The question has been referred to the Economic Development Board, for opinion.

Imports and Exports of Travancore.

139. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total annual imports into the State from foreign countries of articles other than those of Indian manufacture and the approximate value thereof?

(*b*) What is the quantity of *copra* annually exported through Arukutty and the approximate value of the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Articles of foreign countries are imported into the State in two ways—(1) through the sea customs houses of the State (direct imports) and (2) through Cochin or British India. The articles under the second class come to the State after payment of duty at Cochin or in British India and are admitted free of duty here under the Interportal Trade Convention. No classification as to which of those articles are strictly foreign and which Indian is therefore practicable and no such accounts are maintained in the chowkeys of import. Hence information as to the quantities and value of foreign imports through British India is not available. As regards the quantities and values of direct imports from foreign countries, the member is referred to the paragraphs on Trade in the administration reports of the State.

(*b*) In 1097 the quantity of *copra* exported through the Arukutty chowkey was 2,30,632 cwts. and 32 lb. and its approximate value is Bh. Rs. 51,89,226-7-5. The quantity varies each year.

Service Stamps.

140. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the service stamps annually allowed to the several Departments of the State?

(*b*) What portion of these stamps is actually used by the departments during the year? Do they account for the balance, if any, and if so, how?

[MR. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (a) The member is referred to the budget estimate. The figures given therein against Anchal charges for each department represent the value of Service Anchal stamps allowed for the department.

(b) Each office purchases the stamps from treasuries according to requirements. If the value of the stamps purchased in any year is below the allotment provided for the purpose, the balance lapses to Government. Registers have to be maintained in all offices for the stock and issue of stamps. Controlling officers are expected to check these registers and the balance stock at their inspection of offices.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether these controlling officers actually check these registers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They are expected to.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is right. Whether they actually check is the question.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Government have no information. I may say that auditing is done by the Outside Audit Department.

Paddy Farm at Tiruppatisaram.

141. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastiscaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred during 1097 on account of the maintenance of the paddy farm, Nagercoil (Tiruppatisaram); and

(b) the expenditure incurred during 1097 on account of (1) establishment charges and (2) contingencies in that institution?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Rs. 11,497.

(b)	(1) Establishment charges	in 1097	...	Rs. 2,484.
	(2) Contingencies	in 1097	...	Rs. 9,013.

This includes capital expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,345 on account of the construction of buildings.

Grants to Reading Rooms and Libraries.

142. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastiscaram*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of libraries and reading rooms to which grants-in-aid have been sanctioned and the amount proposed to be given in each case for the year 1098?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The statement* asked for by the member is laid on the table.

* *Vide* Appendix—page 590.

Main Southern Road.

143. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to issue orders to widen the main southern road from the 36th to the 38th mile-stone (Villukiri to Chunkankadai approximately)?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter will be looked into.

Avenue Trees.

144. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to the Public Works Department to plant more avenue trees along the main roads and village roads than is done at present?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer has been asked to prepare and submit a programme for the systematisation of the planting of new avenue trees and the maintenance of the old ones. The programme is reported to be under preparation by the Chief Engineer and is awaited. In the budget estimate of the P. W. D. for 1099, a sum of Rs. 2,500 is provided for this item (item No. 192 in the budget).

Teachers qualified in Tamil.

145. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): With reference to the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram, will the Government be pleased to state the number of temporary and permanent vernacular school teachers qualified in Tamil appointed since the issue of the Government order requiring that only persons qualified in Tamil should be appointed for teachers' vacancies in these two taluks?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Ten, including two permanent and eight acting appointments.

Applicants qualified in Tamil for Teachers' posts.

146. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many applications have been received by the Inspector of Vernacular Schools for appointments as vernacular school teachers from persons qualified in Tamil since the issue of the Government order requiring that only persons qualified in Tamil should be appointed for teachers' vacancies in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram and how many of them have been appointed?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 23 applications. With reference to the latter part of the question the member's attention is invited to the answer furnished to his question No. 145.

[Mr. Paul V. Daniel.]

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to instruct the Chief Inspector of Vernacular Schools to draw his attention to the remaining 13 applications from persons qualified in Tamil?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are no vacancies. There are 13 applications and as vacancies arise, these applicants will be posted to those vacancies.

Officers of South Travancore and Literacy in Tamil.

147. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to order that only officers who can read and write Tamil should be posted to South Travancore in future?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This may not be always feasible.

Arable Lands near the Cape.

148. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware that there are still some tracts of land which are available for conversion into paddy lands on both sides of the road leading to the old Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory from the Cape Comorin-Panagudi road? Is it a fact that there will not be much difficulty in irrigating these lands by the *kal* under the Variyur Scheme?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The lands available for conversion can be converted only gradually, as the full development of the scheme is possible only after the supply in the Nanjanad Puttanar channel is increased as the result of the improvements now going on.

Lands registered to depressed classes.

149. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many acres of *puduval* or *poramboke* lands were registered in the names of members of the depressed classes from Chingam to Edavam, 1098 in the Agastisvaram taluk?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): One acre and twelve cents of land.

Crimes registered in certain Police Stations.

150. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number of crimes registered in the Bhutapandi Police Station from Chingam to Edavam, 1098 (inclusive); and

(2) the number of crimes registered in the Aramboly Police Station from Chingam to Edavam, 1098 (inclusive).

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2). The crimes filed in the Police Stations at Bhutapandi and Aramboly during the period number fourteen and twelve respectively.

Seaports of Colachel and Srimulapuram.

151. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to investigate the possibilities of developing the seaports at Colachel and Srimulapuram near Cape Comorin?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question of developing the port of Srimulapuram has engaged the attention of the Government, and as there is no trade at that port, it is not worth while spending any money on its improvement. The question of improving the port of Colachel is bound up with that of the extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil and is engaging the attention of the Government.

Agricultural Loans in Tovala and Agastisvaram.

152. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of agricultural loans given in the Tovala and Agastisvaram taluks from Chingam to Edavam, 1098 (inclusive)?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A statement containing the information is given below:—

Taluk.	*Amount disbursed.*		
	Rs.	Ch.	C.
Tovala	5,110	5	2
Agastisvaram	4,339	8	0

Report against certain Tahsildars.

153. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Land Revenue Commissioner has brought to their notice that some of the Tahsildars are inefficient and unfit for their work; and

(*b*) if so, what the names of those Tahsildars are and what action has been taken by the Government on each of those reports?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Land Revenue Commissioner, as the head of his department, has to report to the Government such subordinate officers including Tahsildars as do not do satisfactory work.

(*b*) Government cannot furnish the information.

Appendix

vide Answer to Question No. 142.

List of Aided Libraries and Reading Rooms.

No.	Name of Library.			Amount of Grant sanctioned for 1098.
				Rs.
1	Prabodhachandrika Reading Room & Library		Chirayinkil	20
2	Parakkode Saraswativilasam	do.	Kunnattur	30
3	Chengalam S. M. S. M.	do.	Kottayam	25
4	Prayar A. R. Raja Raja Varma	do.	Minachil	30
5	Azhakiapandipuram Peoples' Union	do.	Tovala	20
6	Kulattur Srinarayana Memorial	do.	Trivandrum	20
7	Taikad C. V. Vilasam	do.	Trivandrum	25
8	Tiruvattar Vanivilasam	do.	Kalkulam	30
9	Bharnanganam Minachil Public	do.	Minachil	25
10	Kaitamukku Srichittira Tirunal	do.	Trivandrum	20
11	Ravivarma Keralavarma	do.	Chirayinkil	20
12	Martandavilasam	do.	Kalkulam	50
13	Neyyur Y. M. C. A.	do.	do.	25
14	Vadasseri Sri Mulam Town	do.	Agastisvaram	40
15	Srimulavilasam Reading Room and Library, Tazhakudi		Krishnavilasam Tovala	35
16	C. K. P. Memorial Reading Room and Library		Ambalapuzha	20
17	Kizhurkara Y. M. C. A. Public	do	Tiruvalla	30
18	Kizhvaipur Public	do.	do.	40
19	Vallikunnam George Coronation	do.	Mavelikara	35
20	Vazhuvadi Mar Dionysius	do.	do.	20
21	Kandiyur Gnanapradayani	do.	do.	20
22	Oachira Raja Raja Varma	do.	Karunagapalli	50
23	Kuzhuttura Free	do.	do.	20
24	Maruturkulangara Subrahmanya Vilasam	do.	do.	20
25	Tazhava Subrahmanya Vilasam	do.	do.	20
26	Vivekananda Vilasam	do.	Kunnattur	25
27	Atanad Subrahmanya Smaraka	do.	Karunagapalli	20
28	Kunnarakam Setu Lakshmi Bahi	do.	Kottayam	25
29	Melurkara Atmasahayasangham Public	do.	Pattanamtitta	35
30	Nagercoil Srimula Ramavarma Club	do.	Agastisvaram	50
31	Pattiyur Srimularajavijayam	do.	Kartikapalli	25
32	Bharanikkavu F. G. M.	do.	Mavelikara	25
33	Srimula Shashtipurti Smaraka	do.	Ettumanur	50
34	Kidangur Raja Raja Varma	do.	Minachil	25
35	Sri Mulam Club	do.	Devicolam	240
36	Kottayam	do.	Kottayam	180
37	Sri Mulam Shashtyabdapurti Recreation	do.	Chengannur	Bh. Rs. 120

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*contd.*)

DEMAND XII.—EDUCATION.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 32·35 lakhs for the Department of Education.

Motion 263.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

263. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,920 for Head Accountant, clerks, etc., by Rs. 500.

Motion 264.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

264. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,596 for travelling allowance by Rs. 596.

The object in bringing this motion is to show that the number of Inspectors in the department is greater than what is required. There was a time when the Education Department was more efficiently—

PRESIDENT: That is a question of policy. You have proposed a definite cut. You cannot discuss a question of policy. You can only say whether the travelling allowance is too much.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): One Inspector has been reduced since last year. I must know from the Director of Public Instruction whether the allotment for travelling allowance is intended for Inspectors alone or for Assistant Inspectors as well.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hodgson will tell you in his reply.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I understand the motion by Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai is to make a reduction in the allotment of Rs. 12,596 for travelling allowance.

I could not very easily catch what Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai was saying. He dealt mainly with the travelling allowance of Inspectors.

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether the amount includes provision for Assistant Inspectors also.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes Sir, for all Inspectors; English School Inspector and Assistant Inspectors, Vernacular School Inspector, and Assistant Inspectors and Mohammadan School Inspector.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

Motion 265.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

265. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 65,766 for Inspectors by Rs. 100.*

My object in bringing this motion before the House is to draw the attention of the House to the high expenditure on the Education Department. At present, we have a highly paid Director of Public Instruction and also two Chief Inspectors, one for English Schools and the other for Vernacular Schools. Then again, under the Inspector of English Schools, there are Assistant Inspectors. So also with regard to the Vernacular School Inspector. I think the Inspector of English Schools may be done away with, that is to say, the Director of Public Instruction may be asked to do the inspection work of High Schools, especially in view of the fact that he has now got a Personal Assistant to help him in cases of emergency. There are three Assistant Inspectors of English Schools who are quite enough to do inspection work. The Inspector of English Schools seems to be a luxury.

Another aspect of the expenditure side in the Education Department also, I wish to bring to the notice of the House for serious consideration. As I have already observed in my speech in connection with the general budget discussion, there is an amazing growth of expenditure on Education. I am of opinion that, if this expenditure is allowed to go on like this, other departments will have to starve to a considerable extent. So, I think it is high time for this House to have some definite policy in the matter of expenditure on Education. I hope the House will agree with me when I say that we are not for a new tax on education, nor for the enhancement of fees, because the general taxation and the taxation of the school-going population has already reached the breaking point. Therefore, my submission is that we should have some policy of seeking a new source for our help. In my opinion, the best policy would be to have the aid of private agencies which seems to have been rather discouraged by Dr. Mitchell. So I would earnestly request the attention of the House in shaping some policy for delegating, as far as possible, more departmental schools to private agencies. If that policy is adopted, I am sure, that will give us great relief. This is a serious matter and I hope we will have a full discussion on this matter from the learned members of the House.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, Mr. Nidiry's motion was to reduce the allotment of Rs. 65,766 by Rs. 100. In the first part of his speech, he dwelt upon the question of Inspectors. He told us that there are more Inspectors than are actually necessary. He said that any one occupying my position will be able to do the inspection work of English Schools also.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I meant only the High Schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I understand. He said that, therefore, the post of the Inspector of English Schools might be abolished. Sir, this was said last year and I have also heard before in the Popular Assembly that the Director of Public Instruction should do the duties of Inspector of English Schools also. I do not think Mr. Nidiry has considered all the work that the Inspector of English Schools has to do. The Inspector is not merely an inspecting officer.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I remind Mr. Hodgson that I meant only the Inspector of English Schools and not the Assistant Inspectors?

MR L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am speaking only of Mr. Narayana Aiyar, Inspector of English Schools. In addition to inspecting 43 High Schools and a certain proportion out of 137 Middle Schools for boys, as I said last year in this House, he has to give a great deal of time and attention to the development of English education throughout the State. He does not merely go from school to school, ask a few questions and write a report. He has to consider the educational needs of the various parts of the country. For opening new Middle Schools, he has to consider a large number of applications for the same to satisfy himself of the necessity of additional schools in the particular localities.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know how many applications were made for opening new schools this year?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give you the exact number. It is roughly about 25. The number of applications was very considerable. In addition to his work as Inspector and as developer of English education he is also an administrative officer. He has the whole of the administrative control of the staff; postings of teachers, transfers of teachers etc., all these have to be done by the Inspector of English Schools. He does not do them finally himself. Some come to me for sanction. A certain portion has to go to Government. If you will permit me, Sir, to refer to the Inspection Code, this is what is laid down there as regards the work of the Inspector of English Schools.

The duties of the Inspector of English Schools are:—

1. "To control and be responsible to his immediate superior for the efficient working of all educational institutions placed in his charge, in accordance with the provisions of this Code and with such other regulations or instructions as may be in force from time to time.

2. To supervise, and be responsible to his immediate superior for the efficiency of the work of all officers and servants subordinate to him, and to bring to the notice of his immediate superior all cases in which such officers or servants have failed to discharge their duties satisfactorily.

3. To have a full and accurate knowledge of the educational institutions and circumstances of every locality and community within his jurisdiction and to bring to the notice of his immediate superior any change in these conditions or circumstances which may affect the progress of education.

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

4. To have an accurate knowledge of the subjects taught in the schools under his control and of the different methods adopted in teaching those subjects and to keep himself informed of changes in such methods."

And so on.

Sir, the Inspector has always a very heavy day's work before him. Mr. Nidiry expressed the opinion that the Director of Public Instruction can undertake this officer's inspection work. Sir, I think Mr. Nidiry's idea of the duties of the Director of Public Instruction is as imaginary as the palatial office in which he told us the other day the Director of Public Instruction conducts his work. He mentioned three palatial buildings, the Vanchiyur School, the Chief Engineer's Office, and the Office of the Director of Public Instruction. Sir, I have sought in vain for that palatial office. My present office is anything but palatial; the peculiar construction of the staircase which one ascends by gyrations makes me giddy before I reach my office; and similarly when I descend I have an attack of vertigo. (*Laughter.*) I should very much like it if some palatial building were given for my humble office. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Nidiry seems to have digressed from his subject when he went on to speak about the necessity of reducing expenditure on the Education Department and advocated the policy of delegating departmental schools to private agencies. I do not quite see how that comes in, in regard to the reduction of the allotment for the Inspectors of Schools. However, Mr. Nidiry mentioned it; and therefore, I may say a word with regard to that. As far as my experience goes, as I said last year, the department is ready and willing to give up schools to private agencies, *if* private agencies come forward and offer to take them. There has been only one instance of that kind in my experience, at Bharananganam. The English Middle School conducted there by the Government for many years past was handed over to the local church authorities last year. There is some correspondence about the Vernacular Middle School in the same locality also being handed over to the church authorities. It has not yet been decided. I know of no other instance. It has nowhere been suggested—

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Ettumanur English School.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I thank Mr. Nidiry. I quite forgot about it. I think the proposal was that it should be handed over to the authorities of the Mannanam English School.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether the existence of departmental schools does not prevent private agencies from coming forward.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the department, if it liked, could act as a deterrent to private agencies coming forward. But the policy at present is to hand over schools to

private agencies if they are willing to undertake them and if the department is assured that the school will be conducted properly. That was the case at Alleppey. Government abolished the departmental High School that once flourished there, when they found proper private agencies to conduct a school there satisfactorily: I mean the Sanatana Dharma Vidyasala. And it was found that the educational needs of Alleppey were adequately met by the Sanatana School and the Leo XIII School. I think, Sir, it was Dr. Mitchell, who was said to be the sworn enemy of private schools, who effected the abolition of the Alleppey departmental school.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Hodgson how private schools compare with departmental schools in point of efficiency.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. Velu Pillai has asked me a question which would take three or four hours to answer. I would like to explain, by facts and figures which I have with me, that the departmental English schools show far better results than private English schools.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, if grants are given more liberally, more schools will not be forthcoming.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I quite agree that that would be so. The only question is whether Government can afford to give higher grants. Now we are spending Rs. 7,52,000 and odd on behalf of private schools besides scholarships that are being given to pupils in them and stipends to teachers from them under training.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): How did the results of the last School Final Examination in private schools compare with those of departmental schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Does the Rev. Father refer to the results in 1923 or 1922?

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): 1923.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have figures for 1922. The figures for 1923 are not ready.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether, if English education is given in Vernacular Schools, it will not be possible to reduce.--

PRESIDENT: It does not arise here. It is a very big question by itself.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Suppose it is possible to reduce the number of Inspectors—that is my question.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think it arises here. If I am allowed time, I can speak on the comparative efficiency of departmental schools and private schools.

PRESIDENT: That is not necessary.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is not by examination results alone that schools should be judged. Government and the public have long agreed that a single examination is not the only test for efficiency. So far as the E. S. L. C. results of 1922 are concerned, the departmental schools fared far better than the private schools.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Are the private schools under the supervision of the Inspectors?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Certainly. They are under the control of the Inspectors. And even if the Rev. Father is able to prove that any private school fares better, I would lay the flattering unction to my soul that the credit is due as much to the departmental authorities as to the managers.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Sir, I beg to support the motion of Mr. Nidiry; and in doing so, I beg to congratulate the Government for replacing the very high-paid Inspector of English Schools by a very efficient man on a smaller pay.

Then I should draw the attention of Government to the Administration Report of last year in which it is said:

"It is regrettable to note that, in spite of repeated instructions, the minimum work prescribed was not shown by the Inspectors".

I would only draw the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to this part of the report and ask him to kindly see that matters do not go on as they have been going on till now.

Then again, I have to add one word with regard to the treatment meted out by the Inspectors of Schools to private schools. I must give them credit for the great improvement that I notice in them. But I beg to submit that as long as that spirit of the author of our Code, which he has successfully infused into the department remains, there will always be matter for complaint. Mr. Hodgson took objection to my statement as well as Mr. Nidiry's that Dr. Mitchell based his Code on a very bad policy which dealt a death-blow to private institutions. When I asked him whether he could give me the number of private schools that existed when Dr. Mitchell took charge and the number when he left, he was not able to give it. I find that in 1089 when Dr. Mitchell took charge of the department there were 468 departmental schools and 3,237 private schools and that, when he left Travancore for good, he had doubled the number of departmental schools, the number of which came up to 828, and had managed to reduce private schools by three-fourths. The number of private schools went down to 935.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask the Rev. Father whether he can give instances of any private school being arbitrarily suppressed by Dr. Mitchell.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I cannot give any instances. But from the statistics we see that, during his administration, the number of private schools has gone down to a considerable extent. Apart from that, Dr. Mitchell himself, in his Administration Report for 1085, says—just the reverse of what seems to have been attributed to him :

"There is no use in aiding private schools when we can do the work with no cost and more efficiently".

But the committee appointed by you, Sir, *viz.*, the Educational Expenditure Committee, says clearly that subsequent facts do not justify Dr. Mitchell's statement. So, from all these we see that, on the whole, the policy of Dr. Mitchell was against private institutions. As long as his spirit remains in the department—and I am sorry to say that it still remains—there will be ground for complaint. When we admire a thing we begin to imitate it. The present Director of Public Instruction seems to be all admiration for Dr. Mitchell. So I am afraid he will begin to imitate him, although he has laid down a policy in 1091 almost just the reverse of Dr. Mitchell's policy.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I defend Dr. Mitchell against undeserved condemnation, but I hold no brief for Dr. Mitchell. I may tell the member that Dr. Mitchell's views and mine were, as a matter of fact antagonistic.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): I hope that the present Director will instil his own spirit instead of that of Dr. Mitchell into the department.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Much has been said about the policy of Dr. Mitchell as regards the suppression of private schools. Altough I had no personal connection with him, I have had opportunities of knowing exactly the policy which he actually wanted to carry out. I think he was perfectly right so far as the primary schools were concerned. I think it is the duty of the State, so far as primary education is concerned, to meet all the expenses necessary for the conduct of the primary schools. Of course, though Government have not viewed the matter—according to some people—very liberally, that is slightly due to want of funds to meet that expenditure. For my part I would endorse every word of Dr. Mitchell, and I would say that on no ground should primary schools be transferred to private agencies. That is my own view of the matter.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Did Dr. Mitchell say that?

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): His policy was that primary education should be purely under the Government. I know it as a mattter of fact.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The motion before the House is whether the Inspector of Schools should continue to exist or not. That is the first issue.

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): That is not the motion before the House. The motion before the House is to reduce the allotment for Inspectors by Rs. 100.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): But we have gone on a tangent about private schools. I shall begin with the necessity for an Inspector of Schools. The report quoted by the Rev. Father says that minimum work was not done by the Assistant Inspectors. That is not very good reading. There is a tendency to add on to the number of appointments. The result is the accumulation of correspondence in the office of the head of the department. An assistant has to be appointed and a sub-assistant has to be appointed later.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, there is no sub-assistant Inspector in the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am speaking of the general policy.

PRESIDENT: You are speaking of a post that does not exist.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That exists in the Medical Department and many other departments and may be created here also.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): We are now discussing the grant for the Education Department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There seems to be a tendency to add to appointments. I make it as a general remark. We should simplify the whole educational machinery. I think it would be quite right if the Director is asked to do the inspection work also, in consideration of the fact that he has an Assistant. Papers have to go from the Assistant Inspector to the Inspector and from the Inspector to the Director. It leads to increase of expenditure and also swells the correspondence. This is only a suggestion.

Coming to private schools, there is not the smallest doubt that Dr. Mitchell's policy has given a set-back to private institutions. I was so glad to hear when Mr. Hodgson said that, in the case of Alleppey, the Government were very glad to abolish the Government school when proper private agencies were ready to conduct a school there. That should be the policy of the department. In Alleppey and Quilon, there are no departmental girls' schools. There are only Convent Schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is a Departmental English Middle School for girls at Alleppey.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is a pity.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): "Pity 'tis 'tis true."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not think there is any necessity for departmental girls' schools at Alleppey and Quilon. I was

all along congratulating Mr. Hodgson. I think I should withdraw the congratulations now. (*Laughter.*)

There is the Leo XIII School at Alleppey and it is run very efficiently and at a cheaper cost than departmental schools and if we take the results for the last ten years, it will be found that private schools are far ahead of the departmental schools. The results of the Model School, Trivandrum, may support my contention. If a little more help is accorded to private institutions, I think the Government will be relieved of much of the burden.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, the nomenclature that we have adopted in the discussion of this topic seems to me to be incorrect. It appears to me that all schools are to be considered public schools because all the children of the public are allowed to study in all the schools. I think the distinction that is at the back of people's minds is that between schools managed entirely by the department and others managed by private agencies which receive grants from the Government. I am certainly in favour of Government lending its support to private schools if they are efficiently managed. That liberal policy has been followed by the Government for a long time past and it has produced very good results. The idea of giving up Government schools whenever private agencies come forward and ask for them does not commend itself to me, and I trust it will never commend itself to anybody in this House or to the Government. If private agencies ask for help, Government should help them. But if private agencies come forward and say that they want all the buildings with the costly equipments and the whole of the traditions of all the departmental schools, Government must tell them that they are never prepared to do so. Giving help to private schools is quite independent of the department maintaining its own schools. That is the distinction which I wish to impress upon the Council at present.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the distinction Sir?

PRESIDENT: He has stated it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know what the reason for the distinction is.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The reason for that distinction is that I believe that ultimately even these so-called private educational institutions depend to a considerable extent on the liberal grants given to them by Government. I hope Mr. Hoogewerf will be satisfied now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not satisfied at all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): It is not my mistake if my friend is not satisfied. Government have to keep an inspecting officer whether the schools are managed by private agencies or by the Government; nor has it been suggested by anybody that grant-in-aid schools require no inspection. If each school is left to have its own system of teaching, there would be no continuity of

[Mr. M. R. MadhavaVariar.]

policy and no uniformity in the curricula; and I think the educational activity in Travancore will cease to be useful in a very short time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether Mr. Velu Pillai wants to make out that there is no continuity of policy in regard to private agencies. The whole thing is managed by—

PRESIDENT: You are making a statement. You can only ask a question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether he was trying to make out that there is no continuity of policy or departmental direction in private institutions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am for a system of schools worked on similar lines throughout the State and not for a mere conglomeration. That is only my suggestion. If there is no common controlling agency for the numerous private institutions, there cannot be harmonious working or any continuity of policy.

I would also refer to the fact that some communities in Travancore are at a disadvantage so far as aided schools are concerned. Now the Christian Missionaries have started many private schools and the other communities are very grateful to them for the help that they have rendered in bettering the education of our people. We have, at present, so many sectarian and other organisations complaining about the difficulty of boys getting admission to schools, about disputes regarding the teaching of religious books and so forth; and, at this stage in the history of our progress, it would be better to run a large number of schools departmentally, so that this and other troubles may be obviated. I am certainly for helping aided institutions to our uttermost capacity, but I am definitely against giving over schools now under the management of Government to any private agency whether Christian, Hindu or Mahomedan. If the Government are going to divest themselves of their functions and hand over judicial work to Panchayat courts, hospitals and schools to municipalities, and schools and Colleges to individuals or religious or secular organisation the work of Government becomes light, but the system will not conduce to our welfare. The Travancore Government have only to look after the material and moral prosperity of the country; we have no wars to wage and no diplomacy to claim our attention, and therefore I am definitely against handing over our departmental schools to private agencies or to local bodies. But I wish to draw a distinction. I am for handing over some primary schools in case local bodies such as municipalities are prepared to conduct them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The two points raised by the discussion on this motion are whether the post of the Inspector of English Schools can be abolished and whether the enormous expenditure on the Education Department can be curtailed by converting all departmental schools into aided schools. With regard to the first point, even after hearing the arguments advanced by the

Director of Public Instruction, I am not convinced that the post of the Inspector of English Schools is absolutely necessary for the administration of that department. Now there are two Inspectors, one for the Vernacular section of the Education Department and the other for the English section; and there are Personal Assistants also for these Inspectors. Comparatively the number of English Schools is not much and these can be inspected by the Director or by the Personal Assistant now appointed to help the Director. Two or three years back, the Director himself was inspecting English High Schools. Now that his work has been minimised by the appointment of the Personal Assistant, I think he himself can inspect all the English Schools. Mr. Hodgson was enumerating the various duties which the Inspector of English Schools has to do, but these duties can be conveniently performed by the Director himself or by the Personal Assistant to the Director.

Mr. Hodgson was also referring to the work of the development of education. I have to confess that I have not understood that point clearly. My impression about the educational policy pursued by the Travancore Government is that the system of education has not developed a bit in the past two or three decades. I do not find that by the development which is carried on by the Education Department the system of education has improved very much.

With regard to the Director's work, it was stated that it is very heavy, even after the appointment of the Personal Assistant. I do not know what is the nature of the work which the Director has to do. By the decentralisation of work at present I think that the work of the Director can be reduced, and he will have sufficient leisure to inspect English Schools. Moreover, to develop Vernacular education and to administer that section of the department there is a separate Inspector. So, the Director can undertake the administration of the English section and the development of English education. I understand that now the Personal Assistant to the Director is only a signing machine.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): That is not correct.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If he is given more work with regard to the administration and development, I think the Director of Public Instruction can dispense with the post of the Inspector of English Schools. With regard to the second—

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, I strongly protest against the statement of Mr. Madhava Variar that the Director of Public Instruction is a signing machine.

PRESIDENT: You cannot protest; you can only put a question.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Is Mr. Madhava Variar justified in calling the Director of Public Instruction a signing machine?

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

PRESIDENT : He did not say so. He only said that his Personal Assistant is a signing machine. (*Laughter.*)

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*) : With regard to the second point, my opinion is that, with a few exceptions, most of the departmental schools may be handed over to municipalities and private agencies and that expenditure can thus be curtailed.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, the policy of Government with regard to the direction of education has undergone very many changes during the short space of time which I can myself recollect. When I was a student, the Principal of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Mr. Ross, and later on, Mr. Harvey, were also carrying on the duties of the Director and the Inspector of English Schools and there was a separate Director for Vernacular Schools.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : How many English Schools were there then ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Very few. Later on—my memory may not serve me—two Inspectors were appointed to carry on the inspecton work of English Schools and Inspectors came to be established for Vernacular Schools still later. The Directer's post for the English Schools was abolished and the Principal of the College carried on the duties of the Education Secretary to the Government, and there were—

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*) : May I ask what all this ancient history has to do with the question now under discussion ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): With regard to the present suggestion regarding the abolition of the Director and Inspector I thought all these were relevant.

Later on, there were Inspectors for the Vernacular Schools. After some time, the committee presided over by Mr. Hodgson, of which I also happened to be a member, recommended that this division of the work of supervision in the Education Department was very unsatisfactory and we made a strong recommendation that the same man should be in charge of the whole department. As a result of the recommendation, Dr. Mitchell was appointed as the Director of Public Instruction having control over all the educational institutions of the State, with the exception of the Law College, and a separate Inspector was appointed for English Schools. Later on, a Personal Assistant was appointed to the Director. He became the Deputy Director and he has now become the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. I am afraid there may be other changes in the near future; and if these changes are allowed to continue, it may cause considerable dislocation of the work of supervision. Unless the whole policy is well thought out and a scheme laid down and carried

out consistently for a long time the impression that we in the country parts form will be that there is a very considerable degree of confusion and dislocation in the supervision. The difficulty lies in the working of it in practice. I have seen a good deal of the internal working of the educational machinery as a Headmaster and as having had something to do with the various English and Vernacular Schools. I may also add that, even if all the educational institutions are placed under one man, the Director's post is absolutely necessary, and that in consideration of the fact that there are Inspectors and a Personal Assistant to the Director, with no more duties than that of mere arrangement of papers, some of the work diverted from the Director can be conveniently given to the Personal Assistant. If the present Personal Assistant is not sufficiently efficient a proper man can be appointed as Personal Assistant and the heavy work of which Mr. Hodgson is legitimately complaining will be considerably reduced and can conveniently be divided and handed over to the efficient and trustworthy Personal Assistant. If some institutions are separated from the head of the Education Department, then the post of the Director of Public Instruction may be found unnecessary. There is a rumour that the College is to be separated from the Education Department and placed directly under Government. I do not know how far it is true. But if any changes are contemplated, surely it should be effected with great caution and circumspection. There is a great deal of danger in effecting such a change. If any such change is to be effected, the post of the Director can be abolished when the present incumbent retires, and an Inspector having as many Assistant Inspectors as necessary to carry on the inspection of the English schools and Vernacular schools, would be more than enough for a small country like Travancore. It would effect a considerable saving in the expenditure.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether he objects to the name 'Director' or to the post of the Director?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I do not object to the name 'Director' at all. The important thing is that there should not be bifurcation of supervision work. If some institutions are to be placed directly under Government the salary attached to the post of the Director can conveniently be reduced.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the powers of inspection and supervision exercised by the Director and the Personal Assistant should be carried on independently of each other.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Surely, one should be subordinate to the other.

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether, in every matter decided upon by the Personal Assistant, the Director should have the choice of re-opening and deciding it. Does it follow?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): It should follow. There should not be duality of control. That

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

is my opinion. If the College is separated, the person having the control of the Education Department should be one who can look after Vernacular education very efficiently and there is no harm in placing the whole department under his control. As far as possible, there should be some consistent policy instead of different policies followed by different officers.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will it not be enough if the same agency supervises both English and Vernacular schools ?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I think there should be separate Inspectors. I should propose that there should be one responsible person, as the head of the department, who is superior to both the English and Vernacular Inspectors and who can look after Vernacular schools efficiently and satisfactorily.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, I must confess I am not at all satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. Hodgson in regard to the work done by the Inspector of English Schools. Of course, he has enumerated the various duties which he is supposed to be doing. But if we ask all the other departmental heads who are here what their assistants or themselves are doing, they will be able to give a bigger list of duties performed by their subordinates and themselves. But one thing to which Mr. Hodgson was referring as the chief duty of the Inspector was that he is to develop the education with regard to the starting of new schools and so forth. My submission is that the country has had sufficient impetus in the matter of English education and that no more help is wanted. On the other hand, on many occasions, the complaint that has reached me is: "Save us from these Inspectors". They are giving a lot of trouble in the development of new schools. So what I submit is—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does he mean that the fact that the Inspectors are particular in maintaining a certain standard in private schools gives trouble ?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): They are throwing out unnecessary obstacles.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are there any specific instances of such cases ?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanacherry* cum *Minachil*): There are several instances which have come to my notice. Suppose the people in a particular locality want to start a new English school; after almost finishing the construction of the building they apply for permission to start the school, but the Inspector will say that the thatching is not of a superior kind or that the whitewashing is not neat or some such silly thing, and thus put obstacles. In such cases, on the assurance of the managers that such little things or changes will be looked after later on, permission should be given.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is he in favour of allowing children to attend schools in buildings before they are completed?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Certainly not. But small requirements and details may be allowed to be done in due course.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. Nidiry whether lower grade Secondary Schools are not a paying concern?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): In certain cases they are. In other cases they are not.

With regard to the handing over of departmental schools to the private agencies I am very glad that Mr. Hodgson has been able to tell the House that the Government are prepared to do that, provided that private agencies come forward to take up the burden.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, there have been many speakers on this motion and it will be very difficult for me to reply to all of them. I have already replied to Mr. Nidiry's first speech. I shall now first of all refer to what the Rev. Father Vettikkappalli said in the course of his remarks. First of all, he alluded to a sentence in the Administration Report for 1097, regarding the insufficient work of the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools. I should like to tell him and this House too, in justice to the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools, that that remark is due to a misinterpretation of the report that I sent in and which has been subsequently cancelled by the order of Government. The report I sent in was worded as follows:—

"All the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools conducted the annual inspection of not less than a hundred schools except in Districts VIII, XIV, XVIII, XIX, XXI and XXII in which there are not 100 schools to inspect".

What I meant the words to imply was that, except in *all* the above Districts in which there are not 100 schools to inspect, the Assistant Inspectors of schools conducted inspection of not less than a hundred schools. That, however, was interpreted as follows:—

"It is reported that the number of schools annually inspected by the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools of Dirtricts VIII, XIV, XVIII, XIX, XXI, and XXII fell short of 100 schools each. In District No. XXII the total number of schools to be inspected was less than one hundred. But in all the other Districts mentioned above, the number for inspection was more than one hundred".

Thus the Government review isolates the last mentioned District as having less than one hundred schools, whereas my report says that all the above Districts had fewer than one hundred schools. It was due to that slight error in the interpretation of that sentence in the report that, the observation which the Rev. Father Vettikkapalli quoted followed, *viz.*, "It is disappointing to note that in spite of repeated instructions the minimum of work prescribed was not shown". As this has been brought as a charge against the Inspectors by the Rev. Father Vettikkapalli, I think it is only right in justice to the Assistant Inspectors that I should put the matter right.

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): It is said that the number of unaided recognised schools awaiting the award of grants was one hundred. Was it not due to the neglect on the part of the Assistant Inspectors?

PRESIDENT: That is a new point you are raising. You mentioned in your remarks that these Inspectors failed to inspect one hundred schools each. That point has been answered.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The next statement of the Rev. Fatherr Vettikkapalli refers to Dr. Mitchell's hostility to private schools, which attitude, it is said, still remains. I deny that and affirm that the present attitude towards private schools—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is it that Mr. Hodgson is denying?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am denying that the so-called hostility of Dr. Mitchell towards private schools still exists in the department. I do not like to say much about myself. But I may say that, during the last few weeks, I have been receiving unsolicited testimonials from the managers of private schools. I do not deny that, according to some of them, gratitude implies a pleasing sense of further favours to come. But many of these letters, I believe, are sincere expressions of personal gratitude to me and the department for the policy shown towards private schools from the managers and controllers of private schools.

Mr. Hoogewerf referred at some length to the comparative efficiency of private and departmental schools. He mentioned the Model School as one, I think, in which the results were not anything extraordinary. I think it is fair to the Model School to point out that it works under great difficulties, as pupils of classes up to and including the V Form have to be experimented upon by the teachers under training. Instead of having regular lessons with class-teachers for all the hours in the day, a stranger comes and takes the class for several hours in the week under the supervision of one of the lecturers. Sir, it is studying under difficulties. I think that the Model School, considering this difficulty, has done very well. In regard to the statement that the departmental schools are inferior to the private schools, it is quite incorrect There was an article in a paper which most of us may have read wherein the writer claims that private schools, as judged by the State averages in the final examination, stand higher in some of the subjects than the departmental English schools. The writer has omitted to include the marks in English composition and he has taken into account the other two English papers as two separate subjects and said that private schools stood higher than the departmental schools in them. But, if the marks in English and English composition are taken together, the departmental schools stood first in the subject as a whole. While saying that private schools hold the first place in a certain number of subjects the

writer omitted to mention that private schools held the *lowest* place in 15 out of 16 subjects.

Mr. Velu Pillai, I gather, is not in favour of handing over the departmental schools to private managers. It is a policy that has to be carried on with a certain amount of care and judgment. I believe that it is one of the declared policies of Government, with a view to carrying out that which we have heard re-iterated so often in this House, *viz.*, that the expenditure on education must be reduced.

Messrs. Madhava Variar and Mammen Mappillai spoke a good deal about the work in my office. They alluded to my Personal Assistant and seemed to think that, if I delegated a great deal of my work to him, I should be able to inspect all the 45 English High Schools and conduct the administration and all other work of the Inspector of English Schools also. Sir, I should like to say that, with the appointment of a Personal Assistant in my office, now that the same officer has been there for a year and has familiarised himself with the methods of my office work and perhaps, I should say, with my own idiosyncracies, now that he has been long enough there to know exactly how we should do things, he is relieving me of a considerable amount of work. So much so Sir, that I am actually able to get half a day on Sundays and enjoy an occasional gazetted holiday. (*Laughter.*) The work that he does however, must *necessarily* be limited to a certain extent. He is a great deal more than a signing machine It am the signing machine in that office. (*Laughter.*) I have to sign the English School Leaving Certificates, licenses to teachers and a large number of similar documents. I am so sick of writing "L. C. H O. D. G. S. O. N.", that I often wish my name had been Smith or Brown (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I ask whether the Personal Assistant cannot sign these certificates?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): He cannot. It has to be done by the head of the department under the Education Code.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If it is so, why not get the Code amended?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The English School Leaving Certificates are important documents in connection with the admission into colleges throughout India. The list has to be approved by the Registrar of the University. It is therefore only proper that the certificates should be signed by the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether this has to be done throughout the year? What will be the number of such certificates?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have to sign something like 2,500 English School Leaving Certificates of which 1,250 have to be signed in two places. I have also to sign between 2,000 and 3,000 Vernacular School Leaving Certificates. In

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addition to these, I have also to sign the Vernacular Higher Examination Certificates, a large number of teachers' licenses, a large number of probationary certificates, etc. At the same time, it is only right that these should not be issued except on the signature of the head of the department.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries North*): Will not a facsimile do?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I should be very glad to use one. I have some recollection of Dr. Bishop applying for permission to use one, but I believe that was refused; and I never asked for permission.

With regard to the Personal Assistant, he is able to do a lot of work along the lines laid down by me. But I cannot put him in charge of many of my duties. It is not possible to put an officer, even of the status of Mr. Cheriyan, in charge of matters relating to headmasters of High Schools who are in the same grade as himself and persons of higher position, such as the Principals of the Training College, the Arts College, the Women's College and institutions of that kind. As a matter of fact, since Mr. Cheriyan has been in my office, and has become accustomed to my ways of office-work, I have found enough relief to enable me occasionally, as I said, to enjoy a holiday. Certainly there is enough work for the two of us.

Mr. Mammen Mappillai refers to the days when we took sweet counsel together as brother members of a Committee. Those were very pleasant days. Mr. Mammen Mappillai laments that things have changed. 'The old order changes yielding place to new, lest one good custom would corrupt the world.' I am proud to say that in regard to the work that Mr. Mammen Mappillai and the Rev. George Parker and several others did along with me, much still abides. There were certain important points which we considered and laid down for the future policy of the department and they are still in force. We laid down that it was not possible, owing to the dearth of satisfactory teachers, to teach English in primary schools. That was abolished in 1908 on the strength of our report, and that still remains.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I don't know if I have left out anything of importance. But I will steal half a minute. Mr. Mammen Mappillai says there is a great dislocation in the work of supervision and consequently great confusion.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Only when a change takes place.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Then, I take it, at the present time, there is no dislocation or confusion at all. On the contrary, I claim that there is a satisfactory organisation of this department. I have now for about eight years been at the head of it.

I have to control generally all the branches of the department. There are, subordinate to me, the English branch with the Inspector of English Schools as its head, the Vernacular branch with the Inspector of Vernacular Schools, the female education branch with the Inspectress of Schools, all of them responsible to me and reporting and bringing to my notice all that goes on in their respective spheres. Then there are the Colleges with their most efficient Principals who are subordinate to me. I do not think that you could have a better organisation. It is just like an army. You have got at the head a General who commands and then you have Captains commanding companies with Lieutenants beneath them.

I think I need say no more. I certainly oppose Mr. Nidiry's proposal to reduce the grant for Inspectors of schools.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): My only wish was to discuss the general policy of the department. It is with that object that I brought forward this motion. That object has now been accomplished. I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 266.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

266. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 288 for office expenses and pay of menials by Rs. 50.

Motion 267.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

267. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,037 for controlling Agencies by Rs. 100.

My object in sending this motionis to draw the attention of this Council to the absolute necessity of passing for a while and taking stock of the educational activities in the past. We find that, as a result of the educational policy now adopted, the expenditure under this item is steadily increasing. In fact, from 1097 to the revised budget of the current year, it has increased by well-nigh Rs. 5 lakhs. I believe the expenditure in 1097 was more than that of a few years back by about Rs. 10 lakhs—I am subject to correction. If we are to go on at this rate, it is time for us to consider where we shall stop. It is also a matter for consideration whether the system of education that is now being imparted fits the student for fighting the battle of life. Is he made a better citizen? Has his earning capacity increased? Is he a burden to society and a nuisance in the political world, or is he what he really ought to be? Is the system of education that is given to him proper? I particularly emphasise the kind of education that is given in the Vernacular schools and I also wish to know from the Director of Public Instruction whether all his time and energy is taken up in his routine work of transfers and promotions and signing certificates and all that, and whether he has not been able to devote a little time to place

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before this House any new scheme or plan so as to curtail expenditure under this head without impairing or cutting down the existing number of schools. My submission is that it is time that we have a revsion of our ideas in taking Vernacular education into consideration. I contend that these young men who pass the School Leaving examinaticon are fit for nothing, except perhaps to hold certain lower appointments in the public service. But persons who hold these lower appointments are so tenacious of their lives that vacancies very seldom occur, so that these school leaving men have really become a burden to society. I shall be glad to hear from the Director what these men are fit for, whether as vakils' clerks or merchants' clerks or in any other walk of life. It will be instructive to know what is to be the fate of those who fail to get a pass in the School Leaving examination. A further query that I would raise for his answer is whether the system of education that he has laid down is fit for the children of *all* classes and castes of elevation and depression who come to the various schools seeking education. Taking the state of affairs in 1096, out of 3,41,000 students who were attending Vernacular schools, there were 1,87,000 pupils whose parents were agriculturists, 41,000 and odd pupils whose parents were field-labourers, while there were some thousands of children whose parents were blacksmiths, goldsmiths, coir-yarn makers, weavers, carpenters, sawyers, toddy-drawers, fishermen, domestic servants and barbers, besides Government servants, teachers, vakils, merchants and so on and so forth. The question that I beg to ask him is whether this seven years' training in the Vernacular schools is good enough for all these children alike—whether the system is capable of making a better blacksmith, a better farmer, or a better barber of these children by their education in the schools, and whether it is not the direct result of this education that they refuse to follow the profession of their parents. I can cite several instances to Mr. Hodgson of students who, after passing the School Leaving examination, refuse to follow the avocation of their parents and at the same time are unable to secure Government employment. Now the system of education that we impart not only does not enable the student to become a better artisan or a better farmer than his parent, but it at the same time does not teach him even.

So eventually, after being dissatisfied with knocking at the door of every officer and non-officer for the sake of employment, they begin to blame everybody except the system of education. Now Sir, they cannot be blamed. They have received a sort of education. They have passed their examinations successfuly. They are only asking us to give them work and it seems to me a reasonable request. Now, I am in a position to say from the very look of a Vernacular school leaving boy whether he has got the additional qualification in survey or registration. At any rate, I feel it absolutely impossible to have in service all these men who bombard us at our headquarters and also during our sojourn in the Capital.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My trouble is that I am asked to give letters; but I seldom receive letters of recommendation.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mine is just the contrary. There is no consolation for me. My last request will be to make a small allotment for supplying us with writing papers and envelopes so that we might go on with that work.

But I find there is one immediate result of this system of education, which is, want of employment for these young men. The idle brain works mischief, being dissatisfied with everything, and everyone begins to scribble and to write articles to the Vernacular newspapers with the result that they have been steadily on the increase. We find all manner of irresponsible journals coming out. It is not their fault either. I say they are most irresponsible, for, in the local notes of one paper I read that Barrister M. K. Narayana Pillai, B. A., B. L. has taken leave. We all know that he is not a B. A. & B. L. (*Laughter.*) The date of this Council meeting was wrongly given and so many other petty things show that we are responsible for this. A friend of mine who had to deal with newspapers in various capacities for a long time told me that 75 per cent. of these contributions are from these irresponsible people, and if a great authority is required I have got a book. I will read to the House a short passage from the speech delivered by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, *quondam* Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. These are his words:

"To any one," he continued, "who studies, as I do from week to week, the utterances of the Press in India, nothing can be more clear than that, though we seldom have such bold sedition preached as led to the recent trials in Bombay, or as prevailed here in 1870, we are now face to face with a far more insidious and equally dangerous style of writing and speaking. And this is an evil which is yearly growing, and with the spread of what is called education, is becoming more far-reaching in its noxious effects. It is indeed, in my opinion, to the modern system of education that we owe all the trouble. I have long been convinced that it is thoroughly unsound. We are turning out by scores of thousands of young men who are trained only in words, look mainly to Government employment, and failing to get it become, as the Maha Raja of Travancore described them, "a host of discontented, disobedient, and sometimes troublesome young men."

My submission to the Council is this. This description is given by the penultimate Maha Raja of Travancore and it must have been at least 40 years ago, probably when His Highness the Maha Raja laid the foundation stone for the Arts College. Whatever that be, that is a very old description and we find that it applies with much force to the state of affairs to-day. My humble query to my esteemed professor Mr. Hodgson is whether we could not change the system slightly so as to better the system and benefit the young men who seek instruction in these Vernacular schools so that we might at once curtail the expenditure and improve the quality of instruction given. I ask if there is any justification for continuing this system of education. Last year this time, I sent up an interpellation asking the Government whether they would be pleased to ascertain the number of students who have passed the School Final and the School Leaving

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examinations and also who have failed in these during the last five years. But I don't think that was supplied. At any rate, we find that, on an average, Mr. Hodgson's department manufactures about 1,400 or 1,500 School Final and slightly more Vernacular School Leaving Certificate men. We may safely take it that there may be twice as many who fail to get a pass in these examinations. And it goes without saying that it would be impossible for the Government to find suitable appointments for all these persons. The question is, what are we to do with these persons? Are they not a burden to their parents, a more costly burden? If they had not had this Vernacular or English education they would have been satisfied with the ordinary kind of clothing and food. Now, as a result of the education he has received, his standard of comfort and living has become more costly.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Is it the fault of the Government or the parents who send their children to the schools for getting them educated that these students do not get employment under Government?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That question does not arise, for I have not blamed anybody. I am simply asking whether it is not time to revise our educational scheme so as to make our children better fitted to fight the battle of life. The result is that there is an increase in the unemployed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I heard the remarks made by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Raman Pillai with great pleasure. When he speaks on a matter, he invariably speaks with knowledge. His views are as broad as his shoulders. Now it is high time, as he said, to take stock of the whole situation. I would also say that it is time to cry 'Halt.' To take away a carpenter from his natural avocation or a fisherman from his fishing, without supplying him with something better, I say, is almost a crime. I subscribe to every word said by Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Does it not apply to toddy-drawers also? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Certainly not, if the member means tapping for fermented toddy. I would keep him on the top of the tree to tap sweet toddy instead of fermented toddy.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is not fermented toddy generally used in the manufacture of bread?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It can be used, but a very small quantity alone is wanted. Yeast may be substituted for fermented toddy. Even when fermented toddy is used, the quantity is very small, just enough to raise the dough. It has no intoxicating effect at all.

Now coming back to the subject, what I want to say is that our educational policy is moving in a narrow groove. Something must be done to change our educational system to fit us to be better men and women in this world, to bring some more grist to the mill. We have been

proclaiming retrenchment from the house-tops. But somehow or other, the heads of departments seem to be in a narrow groove. They have been devoting most of their time to the signing of certificates, leave applications and such-like work, leaving the weightier matters of policy and administration to look after themselves. This is, as Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai pointed out, a very serious matter and we must look about and see whether we cannot do something to change our policy. The late Maha Raja of Travancore said that, if all the students who are turned out of these colleges ask for official loaves and fishes, a Huzur Cutcherry will have to be built from Parur to Cape Comorin. The training given now is purely literary and it is only natural that they should become office seekers. I know a B. A., L. T., who was wandering about for a post from door to door and found every door closed to him. It is a pitiable state of affairs and, I repeat, something has to be done in this matter. I am extremely glad that this important subject has been brought before this House for its consideration.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the motion before the House brought by Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,037 for controlling agencies by Rs. 100. Mr. Raman Pillai began by saying that the expenditure on the Education Department was going up by leaps and bounds and that we should try to stop it. My answer to him is that we cannot stop it; it is bound to go on increasing in a considerable measure. As the country develops, and more and more pupils come under instruction, and as more and more members of the depressed classes come forward and clamour for education, it will become necessary that more money should be spent year after year to provide them with it. Mr. Raman Pillai asks whether the pupils who have gone through the course of instruction given in our schools are any the better for it. I would reply to that by asking Mr. Raman Pillai to look around him. He will find assembled here the *intelligentsia* of Travancore, and most of them products of the local institutions, and some of them indeed, who began right down at the bottom in the *pial* schools and have risen to the positions that they occupy to-day.

Mr. Raman Pillai's remarks were mostly directed against the system of Vernacular school education that we have in Travancore. He asked whether it is not possible for me or for the department to devise some scheme for improving the system so as to enable the pupils to fight the battle of life and train them to be in better positions to earn their living. I may say that the curriculum of the Vernacular schools has engaged the attention of several committees and conferences in recent years and I believe that we are doing the best that we possibly can in the curriculum that we provide at the present day. It is frequently said that our curriculum in the Vernacular and in the English schools is purely literary. Well Sir, we teach Mathematics in the Vernacular schools. I do not know that Mathematics is a literary subject. In the higher classes in the Vernacular High Schools, we teach Science. That is not a literary subject. In all the English schools and colleges we

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teach advanced Science and Mathematics, and they are certainly not subjects that can be described as literary. In the Middle Schools, however, which are the main objects of attack of Mr. Raman Pillai, we have attempted, by introducing the subject of Manual Training, to give something that I will call not only non-literary but of a kind that develops the physical along with mental activities of the pupil. I mentioned this last year, and I think, if I remember aright, Mr. Velu Pillai wanted to know if any pupils who had been taught Manual Training in the Vernacular schools had, after leaving school, been helped thereby to find occupation in any trade or industry. I was sorry that I was not able to give the information then; and even now, if asked, I am not in a position to answer him, because, this is only the third year since the subject was introduced into the Vernacular schools. In the first year it was introduced in the fifth class, the pupils of which were promoted to the sixth class last year. In the seventh class in which they are now studying, I am sorry to say that, on account of the exigencies of the Vernacular School Leaving examination which casts its shadow before, the subject has for the time being to be dropped.

Next year, the first batch who have taken a complete course in the subject will have left the school, and it will then be possible to say whether any of them will, as the outcome of studying the subject of Manual Training, be able to turn their attention to vocational studies or even find occupation in some pursuit in which this Manual Training will be of advantage to them. Recently, the curriculum of the Vernacular Schools has also been altered in another direction by introducing English as a compulsory subject. I will not say more about it now. I think that will come up again later on. Now Mr. Raman Pillai tells us that the pupils who have gone through this Vernacular course, whether securing certificates or not at the end of it, are a burden to society. Sir, the very same question might be asked, and was in fact asked by Mr. Hoogewerf, with regard to the pupils who go through the High School and college courses and either pass or fail at the end of it. What are they fit for, and what are they going to do with it in their lives? And yet if we put any check upon their admission to these courses, we hear all about it from the press and from the platform with the results with which we are all familiar.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the object of education if it is not to fit men to earn a living?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am merely drawing a parallel with regard to those who wish to go to the high schools and colleges and the pupils of Vernacular schools. Mr. Raman Pillai tells us that these pupils come from the class of agriculturists, farmers, barbers, etc., and asks whether the education they receive in the Vernacular schools will be of any good to them. Sir, I say it will be of the utmost good to them, and that the farmer will farm better and, if I may coin a word, the barber will *barb* better (*laughter*) for the education that they receive in our schools.

I wish to emphasise that the work of the Educational Department is not to provide pupils with occupation, but it is to fit them mentally and morally and if possible physically to discharge better such duties as they will have to perform in after life, than they would if they went without this education. Mr. Raman Pillai speaks as though we compelled students to go to the Vernacular schools. In regard to primary schools, I freely admit we are doing all in our power to encourage them to come to school. Indeed, we hope, as I mentioned the other day, that in due course the consummation of universal education will be achieved. But we do not put pressure on boys and girls to come to the Vernacular Middle Schools. If they come, it is because their parents send them, or very probably the pupils compel their parents to send them. Sir, I am myself a parent. I do not know whether Mr. Raman Pillai has any sons. I myself have two sons and the question of their education was one that had to be decided entirely by myself. I had to determine to what schools they should be sent, and when they completed their education, it was up to me to find them occupation. I did not go to the Government of Mr. Lloyd George and say: "Would you provide a place for my son in the Secretariat?" I had independently and without any help whatever to find occupation for my own children. Sir, it seems to me that if a man is a parent his first duty is to look to the education of his sons and to provide for their future. It is not the business of the department of education to provide occupation for the pupils it trains. Then again, with regard to unemployment, it is certainly very regrettable. I do not deny the fact that there are many young men in the country who are unable to find employment. But I would not blame the Education Department for that. They come to our schools; we do what we can by means of education to fit them to discharge better whatever duties their future careers in life may entail. That they find it difficult to get employment is due to two circumstances. One is that there are few chances of obtaining employment in the Government service. And now in every department hands are being reduced, so that one might say that many are called but few chosen. The other reason is that, besides Government service, there is very little else left for them to look to. We talk about the development of the industries of the country and we are giving technical education in a few schools, but as one of the official members said the other day, with regard to the Sri Mulam Technical school, we train them to become efficient as fitters and mechanics, but when they leave the school there is no occupation for them, and now I am told no boys are seeking admission to that school. I have studied this aspect of the question very carefully, and as far as I can judge, there are few vocations other than Government service and the professions such as law, medicine, etc., which will provide employment on a large scale for our young men.

I do not deny that it is a very difficult situation, but I do believe that our education is not to blame for it and that such of our pupils as do get employment—and in course of time somehow or other most of

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them find work of some kind—they discharge the duties thereof better for the education they have received.

MR. A. HOOGWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know Sir, whether the member is claiming that the present system of education is the best for the material advancement of the country?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I think I said at the beginning that we had two conferences on the revision of the curriculum. We are doing what is best in the circumstances. Mr. Hoogewerf told us that it is time to cry 'halt'. As I said in my reply to Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai we cannot stop; we have to go on. As the late Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair used to say: "you cannot stop a running train".

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I did not say that the whole machinery should be scrapped, but that we should try to evolve a new and a better policy if possible. I do not want to—

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, when the Serjeant cries 'halt!' the whole Company stops dead. Again Mr. Hoogewerf asked us why we should take away a carpenter from his trade. I ask the member: "who takes him away?" Not I.

Mr. Hoogewerf tells us that we should devise some kind of education that can make better men and women in this world. I maintain that this is what we are doing now. A passage from the Curricula Committee's Report of 1098 which was referred to this morning will show that we have not neglected that feature of our work. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai will support me. We discussed the question whether we should give religious or moral instruction in schools. We came to the conclusion that in a country like this where there are so many religious sects it will not be possible to have religious instruction. We were also of opinion that direct moral teaching is apt to be boring. But we said, and I have always said and believed Sir, that it is the duty of the teacher himself in the course of his ordinary lectures, lessons and instruction and by his own example to instil the ideas of right conduct and of good living into the minds of the pupils whom he teaches. The Committee concluded by saying that any teacher who fails to instil such ideas in the pupils under his care has mistaken his profession in life. Sir, I deny what Mr. Hoogewerf said, that the department does not train men and women to be better in this world. He said that the country has to proclaim this from the housetops but that the department is moving in a narrow groove. I do not quite know what he means. In conclusion I maintain that we do what we can to train pupils so as to fit them to discharge their duties in life better than they would had they not come to our schools.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's reference about the persecution by office-seekers will surely find a sympathetic echo from most of us. But what I wish to say is that the evils which he bewails of are incidental to

certain stages in the progress of general education which will be found true of most other countries. But these will, in course of time, right themselves. We cannot have an intense form of general education producing some undesirable results, such as the cropping up of a temporary dislocation in the traditional occupations of certain classes of people. I am perfectly at one with Mr. Hodgson in thinking that such general education, though for the moment it may not provide all people with suitable employments, will, on the whole, enable the recipients to discharge their particular avocations with greater efficiency and satisfaction. The educated unemployed will gradually find occupations in more independent and lucrative occupations such as those of merchants, planters or manufacturers. No doubt, those who go in for such ventures incur a risk of failure, especially in the earlier stages. But here also things will adjust themselves gradually. I am sure that the well-nigh universal primary education, which our country is imparting, will result in producing a better order of citizens who may not all turn out to be Vernacular newspaper scribblers, as Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai is afraid they might become, but will carve out for themselves suitable occupations, thereby enabling them to live a fuller and a more decent life. If an example is required in support of my statement, I would refer to Scotland which enjoys probably the most thoroughgoing system of general education to be found anywhere in the Continent. This has not produced a race of educated unemployed people in Scotland. On ther other hand, wherever, in any part of the British Empire, there is any profitable and honourable work to do, whether as public servants, as merchants or as manufacturers, Scotchmen will be found there. As the saying is, Englishmen conquer new countries and Scotchmen follow and occupy them. This is due, partly at any rate, to the excellent system of general education prevalent there.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. Mammen Mappillai whether the system of education followed in Scotland varies from that in Travancore?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): It goes without saying that no two systems of education are exactly identical.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The comparison is fallacious.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I do not think the comparison is fallacious. Mr. Raman Pillai is advocating, I think, a system of technical education.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is there no technical education in Scotland?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Yes, there is. But I was going to say that this comes on the basis of general education up to a standard. We should also try similarly to evolve a system of technical education. But this should naturally come after and on the top of a system of general education. One is glad to

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

note that our Government is not oblivious to this development and bifurcation. Manual training schools, carpentry schools, commercial schools, weaving schools, all these are intended to change the direction gradually of our—at present purely literary education. The methods are not perfect now, but it is hoped that in course of time we may hit upon better methods of technical education.

Of course, that it should be perfected, there is no doubt; it requires perfection. That depends not only upon Government but also upon the Director of Public Instruction and upon the leaders of the people. It depends upon the kind of pressure, concentrated pressure, brought to bear upon the Government by the people. I want to know whether there has been any scheme that has been pressed upon the Government. We want education, professional education, but so far I have failed to see any great scheme that has been submitted to be taken up. It has also to suggest methods by which instruction more helpful and more beneficial might be given. I am seriously suggesting that it should be the duty of the Government to devise different methods of instruction so that our children might not have any complaint later on. I was reading a very interesting experiment conducted in Calcutta by Captain Patavel who is a lecturer on poverty problems in the University of Calcutta. He suggested to the Maha Raja of Kasimbazar, who gave him a large area of about 500 acres, where he is now conducting a school to students who also do planting work and earn their livelihood. There are other interesting experiments also which are surely worth while being taken into consideration by the Government, the Director of Public Instruction and also the leaders of public opinion and to suggest suitable means by which the purely literary bent of our education may be changed so that it may be more practical and useful to the country.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, as I have sent up an almost identical motion, I feel bound to say what I have to say now. Mr. Hodgson, in the course of his expert reply, admits that the number of the unemployed is going on increasing and that that is to a very great extent due to the present system of education. During my speech on the general budget discussion, I referred to this aspect of it when he told me that the Administration is responsible and therefore the discussion of the question under the heading 'Controlling Agencies' would come in very well. I find that the following admissions have been made: *first*, that a large number of students after coming out of schools have not found occupation for themselves; and *secondly*, that the State does not hold enough of places and cannot provide them with occupation. Mr. Hodgson says that it is not the fault of the State but the fault of the pupils themselves or the fault of the guardians of the pupils. Now, this system of education has created in us a certain mentality and that mentality is to take to what is called the present cultural system of education and depend upon Government or the learned professions for making one's bread. The present

system, it will be admitted, is exceedingly out of date. It seems to have been devised abont half a century back or more to enable the British Government to carry on efficiently their system of administration. We find, since then, vast strides have been made elsewhere in education, that ideals have completely changed and that new systems have come into existence in Europe, America and other places. What we want an expert like Mr. Hodgson to do is to devise a new scheme befitting the present condition of things. There is no use in deploring the present system of education which may well be called an unfitting system of education. (*Hear, hear.*) We want practical education, and not so much of cultural education. We want vocational education. We want education that would fit us for professions, for trades, for new businesses, for new enterprises: in other words, we want education that would enable us to create more and more wealth, to earn more and more to increase the wealth and the prosperity of the land. What is the present system of education then? As I observed before, it has only increased the army of the unemployed, increased the number of consumers who are depending upon the producers of the land. We want people who would produce more and more. What we have at present is a number of schools and colleges whose traditions are cultural or literary, which do not train us for the practical aspects of life. We find new colleges rising up. Mr. Hodgson might well ask whose fault it is. As I once before said, it is the mentality that we have inherited by the present system of education. We do not want so many Arts Colleges. We want an entirely new system, a system that would fit us to work under present conditions and that would fit us to work out our salvation in the future. I do not refer to primary education. As for primary education, we want as much as we can get. It is only like a key to open the doors of a treasure box. The key is not enough; we still grope, because we have not opportunities, because the only professions that we can look forward to are Government places, the law or other learned professions. I may therefore suggest that it is up to Mr. Hodgson and to the other experts of the Education Department to devise a constructive scheme of education. I know that there is a University Committee sitting and they may evolve a very good scheme of education after all; but they have to keep to this aspect of the matter *viz.*, that education has to be more and more practical, tending to add to the wealth of the land and that we do not want so much of that cultural education which we have been used to for a number of years.

I also wish to add a word about the growing expenditure of the department. We have been taking credit to ourselves for spending a lot of money on education; but if we turn to what other people are doing elsewhere, we shall find that, after all, we are not spending very much ourselves. Out of Rs. 37 lakhs or Rs. 37 odd lakhs that we propose to spend on education this year, about Rs. 7 lakhs may be derived from fees and other revenues of the department. We are thus spending about Rs. 30 lakhs on a population of 40 lakhs and that works at twelve annas per head of the population. Even accepting the figure

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

that we are spending Rs. 37 lakhs on four millions of people, it works out at only fifteen annas per head of the population. In Baroda, the amount spent on education last year was Rs. 29,44,000. This works at about Re. 1-6 per head of the population. In Japan, with a population of 56 millions and a revenue of Rs. 205 crores, the amount spent works at Rs. 2-5-4 per head of the population. The standpoint from which we view is the percentage of the expenditure to the total revenue of the land. That is not, and that ought not to be our view-point. Does the average citizen here get as much as a citizen in other places is getting? That and that alone could satisfy us. Therefore it would not do for us to be satisfied with your flaunting that Rs. 37 lakhs is spent under the head of education. We are still working under the old system. We want a total change of system. A large amount of money is spent; but are we getting our money's worth? I wish, therefore, without setting my opinion against the expert opinions of Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, to bring forward this practical view of the matter, and wish that they would evolve a sound system of education that would fit us to existing conditions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am thankful to Messrs. Mammen Mappillai and Krishna Aiyar for the very instructive suggestions they have placed before the Council, and I am also thankful to them for being of considerable assistance to me in being instrumental to my recovery into the normal state from the morbid state into which I was cast by the eloquence of Mr. Hodgson. It took me some considerable time to do so. And when I submitted his speech to a process of cold judicial reasoning, I came to the deliberate conclusion that the points of view placed before the Council by my friends on this side of the House had not been adequately answered by him, at any rate, only answered in a manner which I consider quite unsatisfactory. Mr. Hodgson is a trained man of affairs, with the instinctive imagination of the scholar, and his answer has been to the effect that our existence here as a democratic body and the success that we achieve in the way of deliberation and discussion has been to a considerable extent the result of the Malayalam school system. Sir, there was a time when all of us——

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I did not say that; I said the general education system leading up, from the Vernacular school to the college.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That was what I thought I heard. But Mr. Hodgson is a better authority on what he said. (*Laughter.*) Sir, I do not think that this Council is due very much to the kind of education that we have been given in the Vernacular schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I must ask forbearance to say a word. I first of all referred to

Mr. Raman Pillai's desire to reduce the expenditure on *general* education. The second part of Mr. Raman Pillai's speech dealt with the Vernacular schools exclusively. It was in reply to the first part that I made the remark that we have had an *intelligentsia*.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to take up time by answering Mr. Hodgson's suggestions. Sir, I am one of those who have been struck with the literary learning of the Director of Public Instruction; but to-day I am very much struck with his knowledge not only of literature but of politics and law. Mr. Hodgson has taken his stand on the theory of *laissez faire*, I believe, so that he can do whatever he likes in the matter of education. He has said in a very suggestive, nay, expressive language that Government do not compel boys to go to schools, that they only maintain schools and leave the parents to do what they like with their children.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): No, Sir he is again wrong. I was referring to the Vernacular Middle schools. I definitely excluded the primary schools.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I never said primary schools, I only said schools. I think, Sir, that the theory of *laissez faire* has been completely abandoned in all civilised countries; and even in England people do not believe so much in it as they used to, some 30 or 40 years ago. Instead of individualism and *laissez faire* you find paternalism dominant in European politics and one of the main functions is to do what is good and what is right for the benefit of the people and not merely to provide institutions for them. I find that in this Council also there is much of paternal legislation. There are several instances of this kind such as the Chitties Regulation. In fact, most of the legislation that we have had in this Council, most could be traced to the belief that still the old acts of injustice are being done and that the weaknesses of particular individuals are exploited by stronger people. I am of opinion that the Government cannot claim to have done their duty merely by having institutions and leaving people to do what they like. My friend Mr. Mammen Mappillai referred to this question and suggested that we might profit in the same manner as Englishmen and Scotchmen benefit by the education in that country and go to the different parts of the world in search of careers. It may be possible for them, but for the students educated in the schools in Travancore to follow suit and do likewise is utterly impossible. Sir, I should have been particularly happy if the facilities open to the European had been afforded to us. We are a small State. We are in a really worse position. A Travancorean going out to the Dominions, to Canada or Australia, will certainly not receive as much encouragement and assistance as the Englishman and the Scotchman. So that the remark of Mr. Mammen Mappillai cannot be translated into action.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I wanted to say that something like that might be done even in our country.

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I quite understood all that. He did refer to the chances in life open to Englishmen and Scotchmen, and, as a Travancorean, Sir, I do not see that those possibilities are open to the men of my country. Therefore it is not proper for the Government to leave people to themselves. I cannot after all find any great difference between the Government and the people. Government exist *for* the people. Mr. Mammen Mappillai asked a very important question. Has any point of view, any constructive scheme of education intended to elevate the masses, to remedy injustice and remove poverty been put before Government by the people? The question should be the other way. I ask, has any complete scheme been put before the public by the Government? Government exist for the good of all, and, therefore, I would say that that question should be asked in a different manner and the Government will find it possible to do something constructive.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I may point out that I was only speaking on behalf of the Education Department and not on behalf of Government. There is also the Department of Industries. It is the Department of Industries that should undertake such work as Mr. Velu Pillai suggests.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): All of us understand what we say, what a Councillor says and what Mr. Mammen Mappillai said. Sir, as there is very little time left, I would only say that the Government have to consider this question seriously. It is only by feeding the stomach that you can keep the brain embellished with all the excellence of sound education. I remember Charles Lamb saying in one of his essays that the most distressing sight he ever saw in his life was a child who was looking wistfully at books which he could not read, and arguing that the suffering is very much more in the case of a boy who is looking wistfully at food which he cannot eat. The Director of Public Instruction should at once look into this question. Before he lays down his important office, I hope he will find it possible, with the assistance of Government and with the co-operation of the people, to place before the Council a constructive scheme which will make his name remembered for ever in this land.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Sir, I wish to ask the indulgence of the House to offer a few remarks in the course of this important discussion. Speaking merely as a teacher (*louder, please*) speaking merely as a teacher and not as an official, I wish to say that it is a matter of gratification to those like me to have an important question like this brought up very early in the discussion on the educational budget. We do not resent Sir, to the slightest extent, what gentlemen on the other side have with great modesty been disposed to regard as a lay contribution to the budget discussion. We have been referred to as experts. We do not claim

any expert knowledge. We claim some familiarity with the work that we have undertaken and some of us have occasionally also given a thought to the direction in which our work has been tending. Education is one of those matters in which everybody is, to some extent, an expert, because everyone has to learn, as also to teach other people.

The question that has been raised to-day is of very vital consequence not only to this State but to every State. I may perhaps be forgiven for reminding the House that the questions brought up to-day are not in any way new questions, nor are they questions which relate only to Travancore. These questions have been considered over and over again, and after the termination of the war all over the world, in the process of reconstruction that is going on in every department of life, these questions of educational reconstruction have been considered; questions analogous to those suggested by the discussions to-day have been considered and are still being considered. May I also say that such things as a revision of the curricula of studies as would enable a course of education being provided in our schools, should fit in not only with the present but also be a proper preparation for a proper future? Such an education as Mr. Krishna Aiyar would like to be provided is what the Education Department and all teachers have been trying to secure. The only thing in which perhaps there might be a difference of opinion between those who are engaged in teaching in this country and elsewhere and those who would lay much of the blame for a considerable number of difficulties at the door of our system of education is that the persons who are engaged in education are not likely to admit that the responsibility is theirs for the lack of opportunities for employment, for the economic conditions under which people in this State and elsewhere are labouring. May I invite the attention of this House to a certain amount of confusion in the arguments that we have been listening to? Also, undoubtedly, one of the great troubles we are having is this unemployment question, and in the proletariat that we might get we might also have an increasingly educated proletariat. I am free to confess that this difficulty which has been referred to as the difficulty increasingly in evidence in Travancore, is a difficulty that has been in increasing evidence throughout the world. But it is entirely a question of having a number of persons who may or may not be qualified for certain employment—but who are unable to get employment—is a question of the employment of all persons, fit or unfit. It is a question of opportunity. You might educate people exceedingly well, and still opportunities might not be forthcoming for employing them all. It is, therefore, not a question of a defect in the system of education at all, which denies them the opportunity; it is rather a question of the constitution of society being such as would not provide adequate opportunities for the proper employment of the talents of all the people who have been educated.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know Sir, what are the opportunities that are held out to those men who have passed the School Leaving examination?

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I will come to it, if Mr. Raman Pillai will be so good as to bear with me for a few minutes, to approach the point he has raised. It would delay rather than help the argument to give a reply before it is due.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I will wait.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I am not now concerned with the school leaving students. I am concerned here with the larger questions that have been raised; I think the more important issue is whether the system of education generally that we are now providing from the earlier stages to the higher stages, is a proper system of education, that is the orientation of our system of education. Orientation has far more importance than the question with which Mr. Raman Pillai started, and, I think, we are bound to be grateful to the other members of the House who have not narrowed down to the points to be brought out in this discussion. I am not entirely at one with Mr. Velu Pillai in regarding it as mostly a question of private interests, as a question for the children and the people. It is in this sense that I want to meet this question.

Well, Sir, in regard to this important question that has been brought up to-day, my submission is that there has been a confusion between the lack of opportunities, on account of the condition of society in which we find ourselves, and the responsibility of the Department of Education for the absence of this opportunity. It could be proved, and it has been proved, that the assertion is not equal to an argument; dogmatic statements are not to be regarded as proofs. To say that the Education Department and the system of education have been responsible for the lack of opportunities for employment is, I think, to ask for a very large credit on the belief of the House. This question, as I said, has been considered everywhere. I do not want to develop further this idea. I merely want to ask the House to believe that, to the people who are actually engaged in education, the question of the curriculum that they have to work is a very important question; and the appeal which Mr. Krishna Aiyar and others were making is an appeal which will never fall upon deaf ears. So far as the Education Department is concerned teachers are ever anxious both for themselves and the students whom it is a privilege to teach, to have a good curriculum of studies and many endeavours are being made in this direction. There is, for instance the Curricula Committee's Report. I have not had the opportunity to examine it carefully, but I take it that it is the result of a very careful investigation and of a considerable amount of thought by a number of officials and non-officials. What I wish to stress at the present moment, Sir, is that, all through, there seems to have been an under-current of feeling in the arguments that we have heard that the difficulties in the present system of education are due to what may be called the cultural

or literary aspect of it. Our present system of education has been condemned as being ecxlusively literary and therefore useless, and the absence of vocational training has been deplored. I think the terms used are not precise, and I would rather accept the old-fashioned distinction between general education and what has been called technical education. I have no special fancy for this American term 'vocational education' which has not yet invaded the more serious works of reference on education. Well, in regard to the distinction between general education and professional or technical education, may I say that there has been a big consensus of opinion among teachers as well as public men and practical men of business all through the world, that a proper grounding in general education is the satisfactory and the necessary foundation for technical education. Technical education might be regarded as one of the branches of specific education; but it may not be possible to start even some technical education without a proper grounding in general education.

I do not want to tire the House, but I think I can safely say even that—I express the opinion not only of distinguished teachers but also of distinguished men of business—that an adequate foundation of general education is absolutely necessary before anything like successful technical studies can be started. If that be so, Sir, may I point out that what has been called cultural or literary education might help to get us on right lines of general education and that it is the proper thing to be provided. Our mistake is not the mistake of having this kind of education in the lower stages, but not having a sufficient number of institutions to continue the further studies, the further differentiation in general and technical education.

I do not want to pursue any further that argument now. But what I wish to point out is that, there seems to have been a growing feeling that the mistake is in making pupils purely students of literature. Mr. Krishna Aiyar, who has a considerable amount of culture, may say, 'Sir, we do want to be more and more practical'. I say, if you want anything practical you may have. A preparation for life—a proper preparation for life—is to give an adequate foundation in what you call cultural education, what I call general education, and that is being provided. If you are for training people for life, you have to prepare them not only for the normal difficulties of life, but you should want them to be trained for the abnormal difficulties of life also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir—

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I suggest that Mr. Hoogewerf may put his question at the end of my speech?

Sir, we had the misfortune or the good fortune to pass through a world crisis on account of the Great War. This war taxed the resources of all the civilised nations of the world; and in the course of the Great War it was not only a question of fighting, but it was a question of making a considerable amount of provision of an economic nature for the maintenance of arms, ammunitions and all that, of the States. The world

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

had never been put to that strain. On that occasion an opportunity was given to the world to test the value of, what may be called, general education; and during that war a large number of persons was called up who had received only a purely literary education, or what the universities have called a classical education; all these people were then called up to occupy various responsible positions in the world of industry, in the world of government, in the world of business, and in the world of fighting. In every case it was admitted that a person who had been receiving general education was the person who was most distinctly successful. And persons who had merely a technical experience in a particular matter without preliminary general educational drilling and without preliminary preparation were invariably—

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask if the persons referred to were persons who had business experience besides general education?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I am saying that persons who had *no* business experience and who were suddenly called up without any business experience but only with, what may be called, a general classical culture, or a general education, to undertake responsible work, were able to do it very much more satisfactorily than people who had a purely technical education. I do not want to labour the point further; the columns of the *Times* are full of testimony in regard to the success of men who had been receiving a purely general education.

Now, Sir, I wish to say that what has happened in this way in the wider field is also true in a narrower field. Even in regard to the education imparted in our schools, I take it, we are roughly on correct lines. I do not say that the curriculum of the Vernacular schools is perfect. I have, as a teacher, some knowledge of the curricula of our studies; and I am inclined to believe that our Vernacular curricula are not defective *all along the line*. They may be capable of improvement, and possibly it is being attended to, day after day. But, what I want to say is that it is a sweeping condemnation, a sweeping indictment altogether, of the present system, to say, firstly, that we are *altogether* on the wrong track in having a kind of general education provided in what are called the elementary stages in which it is both economical and it is only feasible to have an education imparted in vernacular, and secondly, that it is altogether unjust, and it is thoroughly unjustified, to lay the blame for the lack of opportunity for the great body of unemployed on the system of education that we have. In countries which we are probably willing to regard as models, in countries where the educational system is presumably better, in countries like Japan or the United States, or other countries which are to be shining examples to our State, where, day after day, this unemployment question is very much more acute than it is in Travancore, or in India, or in Calcutta where the unemployment question

has necessitated the appointment of Captain Patavel, to which Mr. Mammen Mappillai referred to-day—

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): If you will allow me a minute, I shall finish.

The question has been prejudiced altogether by bringing in a number of irrelevant details. The essential point under consideration is whether we are already on right lines in having a large number of Vernacular schools, training people in what we call general elementary education. Is that the correct thing? I shall be prepared to argue, if I had sufficient time, with my friends on the other side of the House, and I think I would also be able to convince them that there is absolutely no reason at all for doubting that we are altogether on right lines as far as the providing of what may be called general education is concerned. Even those who want a profitable technical training must be prepared to recognise that it can only be best provided on such a basis of general education. I do not for one moment feel that the Education Department and those who are concerned with our education are obliged to take an apologetic position in regard to the contribution they are making to the work of our Vernacular schools. It may be possible to substitute more efficient institutions for them; but as Mr. Hodgson said, it is only a question of money. The difficulty is that we cannot do it at present without an appallingly large expenditure or without necessitating a certain amount of starvation among the members of the service. That is the reason why I said that it is a question of economy; it is not possible in the present state of our finances to have anything better than what is obtaining now.

But as regards the general aspect of education itself, I would venture to submit that altogether it is sound. Mr. Krishna Aiyar asked for a better scheme. We may be able to evolve a better scheme—gradually. But if that one is to be better than what we have, can we have a revolutionary change substituting a practical course—as if the present one is not a practical course—for what he now thinks is a purely literary course? I would venture to say that Mr. Krishna Aiyar will then be entirely on the wrong line and will be doing a disservice to the alleviation of the problem of poverty which he wants to solve, and that he would unhappily increase the question of poverty.

I am now willing to answer the questions of Mr. Hoogewerf if he puts them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know if it is not a fact that in Belgium, after students come up to a certain stage, 75 or 80 per cent. of them are bifurcated for technical education combining industry and agriculture. I—

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I think I understand. I will answer.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I will finish my question. I also want to know whether Belgium is not the most prosperous country in the industrial world and that her position is not due to the system of education obtaining there.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I have no special knowledge of Belgium (*Laughter.*) But I am glad that Mr. Hoogewerf's question proves my proposition very well. After a certain stage of general education, which I think would correspond to one or other of the classes which I referred to, they will probably go on for technical education. That will account for the prosperity of arts in Belgium.

The Council rose for lunch at 2-11 P. M. and reassembled at 3. P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): With respect to the question that is now before the House, I would just refer to a few aspects which seem not to have received adequate attention at the hands of the various speakers in this House. Mr. Raman Pillai has pressed his position with characteristic enthusiasm, so much so it has been, to some extent misunderstood. It is not, I am sure, the object of Mr. Raman Pillai to say anything against the desirability of having a general education under the agency of the State. The principles which were very admirably put forward by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar in pressing the necessity for general education under the control of the State are certainly acceptable. But the question of vernacular education, to which attention was particularly drawn by Mr. Raman Pillai, stands unexamined at the hands of the official speakers. This question of vernacular education stands entirely on a different footing so far as we are concerned. It is certainly intended as a vehicle for the spread of general education. But considering the facility that vernacular education affords, the question is pointedly raised on this side of the House, whether we are taking as much advantage of the system of vernacular education, as now organised in the State, as we ought, in view of the pressing necessity to advance the material prosperity of the State in general. That is the point to be examined. It is no use clouding the issue that has been specifically raised by referring to glorious general propositions.

Sir, the vernacular education portion of the educational programme of the State has got a number of facilities which we have got to take into consideration. First of all, the difficulty of language study is at the minimum on the vernacular side, so much so, for the spread of general education, vernacular education is best suited in the State. Along with that aspect of vernacular education has to be considered the question whether it cannot be utilised for the purpose of enabling the sons of the soil to earn their bread also by means of vernacular education. I am sure that the system of vernacular education has not received any examination from the stand-point that I have just now mentioned. It is therefore that attention has to be concentrated, on that aspect, and

experiments will have to be tried whether the system of vernacular education that we have now may not be overhauled so as to enable it to be the medium, not only for the spread of general education but also for vocational training. With these few remarks, I have very great pleasure in recommending the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, my friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai required two props in Messrs. Krishna Aiyar and Mammen Mappillai, before he could get over the shock of Mr. Hodgson's eloquence. But, so far as I am concerned, I must candidly say that the moment his reply escaped his lips it appeared to me to be absolutely unsatisfactory, as it betrayed his colossal ignorance of local conditions. He exhibited a disinclination to grapple with this serious problem, and a mentality unsuitable for the same. I heard with considerable attention the eloquent speech of Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, and I may say that the eloquence had a permanent effect upon my entire system because it was a kind of shock which I could not locate definitely. He was telling us that cultural education is absolutely necessary and I ought to have moved the proposition on a broader basis and all the rest of it. Sir, I deliberately narrowed the discussion, for, my conception of this meeting is that it is a business meeting where we are called upon to transact a definite amount of work within a period of time limited by statute. This is not the time to give lectures on cultural education and all the rest of it.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I ask why, if his purpose is to be businesslike and pointed, he should have indulged in such general diatribes against the existing system of education?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar has not grasped the situation. (*Laughter.*)

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I ask Mr. Raman Pillai whether he has grasped his own situation?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not like to enter into a cross examination with the learned Professor. I ask him at the same time, whether anybody doubted the necessity for having cultural education.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Did not Mr. Raman Pillai doubt it?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That is why I submitted that the Professor has a misconception of the position. (*Laughter.*) It is very well to talk of cultural education and drilling of the mind. The thing that has to be considered is whether it shall stop with the imparting of primary education. So far as the Travancore State is concerned, it has been decided that classes I to IV of the Vernacular schools will constitute the course of primary education that is given. I might ask what justification has been shown for maintaining the multitude of higher grade vernacular schools having classes V to VII

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

where young men are trained year after year without any adequate provision being made by the State for their employment. That is the problem which I want to grapple and the Director has not done it. He has been, as he said, eight years as Director of Public Instruction and I found in his speech absolutely no suggestion to solve the problem. He was purely barren of anything, and the vein he adopted was of a bureaucratic bent of mind. Sir, this question has been grappled by almost all the educationists in the civilised world. The Director could not be unaware of the fact that Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi had a scheme in Mysore. He could not be unaware of the Couchman Committee appointed by the Madras Government. Mr. Ramalinga Reddi, Sir, advocated vocational education being made compulsory, and the report was deliberately considered by the mixed committee appointed in Madras. They came to the conclusion that commercial and vocational education might at least be made optional. The strongest opponent of that scheme was Mr. C. W. E. Cotton, who is now Resident in Travancore. In his dissenting minute he said:

"As I said at the meeting, it seems to me that in the case of intelligent boys with purely literary inclinations it is unfair to handicap them by requiring them to devote two hours out of each school-day in learning a smattering of carpentry or blacksmithery or even weaving, and the suggestion that such training will make them industrially minded is a very large assumption. As regards boys who have little or no aptitude for books and are not likely even if persevered with to get beyond the S. S. L. C. stage, I am all in favour of their aptitude for industrial work being tested as early as possible but not in the manner proposed. They should be drafted into whole-time industrial schools and given an opportunity therein to show whether they have any bent for working with their hands."

I submit to this House that Mr. Cotton has gone too far and the position taken by him is wrong; because he says that after this cultural education and drilling of the mind for seven years the boys should be drafted to full-time industrial schools, and then must be experimented upon with a view to ascertain whether they have the bent of mind for technical education. It appears to me that the position taken by the majority was certainly more convincing, because they say that during the drilling period itself opportunities may be given to ascertain the bent of the boy by making at least this vocational and commercial training optional. This is what the majority say:

"The Committee recognise the value of manual training and is also of opinion that vocational and industrial training might, with advantage, be included in the curricula of the ordinary schools as optional subjects."

and the resolution was carried by a majority of 8 against 5 after a considerable amount of discussion. Now, Sir, this is how the civilised world moves.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I ask whether he is aware of the conclusions of the more recent Madras Government Committee on Secondary and Intermediate education in regard to vocational education?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That does not arise here.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): It does. Mr. Raman Pillai has quoted one Government Committee. I wish to know whether he is aware of the pronouncement on the same subject of another and a *later* Government Committee?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): It is for me to decide whether it arises here or not. The option of answering the question is entirely left to me. (*Laughter.*)

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Yes. In regard to the relevancy or otherwise of a question, it is for the House to decide and not for the speaker.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): The duty of answering is mine. Nobody can compel me to answer. I rule that it does not arise here. (*Laughter.*) So far as I am concerned, there is an end of the matter. (*Laughter.*)

Passing on to Mr. Hodgson's reply, I seriously ask whether it is not time for us to stop and take steps to ascertain whether our expenditure on education is not going increasingly high. In 1089, the expenditure on education was Rs. 15 lakhs out of a total revenue of 154 lakhs; in 1095 it was Rs. 25 lakhs out of Rs. 185 lakhs; in 1097, as we know, out of Rs. 192 lakhs, it was Rs. 32 lakhs and now out of Rs. 2 crores it is Rs. 37 lakhs; so that certainly it is time that we take serious notice of this matter. Mr. Hodgson's reason was that once upon a time Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nair seems to have told him that a running train cannot be stopped. I submit that both figuratively and literally it is wrong. With due deference to Mr. Krishnan Nair, I say it is wrong, because a running train can be stopped and it is stopped at every station. (*Laughter.*) Else, how can people get down? The railway authorities will have to examine whether the train can be safely run over the whole area it is going to cover, and the train is also stopped in times of danger. So, that analogy quoted by Mr. Hodgson cannot hold good. The cast of the machinery of Government has considerably changed since the days of Mr. Krishnan Nair, and though this side of the House may appear to be demoralised to some, will certainly exercise their rights if they find that the train runs too fast or is in a dangerous condition. He was telling us that the Government do not intend stopping expenditure. I am sure he said so on his own personal responsibility because the expenditure has already gone up out of all proportion to the net income of the State and it is time that this Council seriously think of reducing the expenditure, as I said earlier in my speech, without impairing the efficiency of education.

Mr. Hodgson said regarding the unsuitability of the boys, that the curricula had been engaging the attention of the department and that modifications have been made in the curricula, and that Mathematics, Science and Manual Training have been introduced in the Vernacular Schools during the past two years, and that now even English is being

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

taught there. My humble submission is that beyond class IV Mathematics and Science and Geometry taught in the Vernacular schools do not add to the earning capacity of the student at all. He is in as bad a condition as he was before these subjects were introduced. My submission is that it is time for the Government to consider whether they could not amalgamate with advantage classes IV to VII, along with Forms I to III of the Lower Grade English schools, thereby reducing expenditure and the number of unemployed young men turned out year after year. It is for the Director to consider that question. I am sorry to find that he had absolutely no suggestion to make, at least to tell us that he has a scheme which would reduce the expenditure, but which we should have considered not feasible.

As regards the cry of these low paid Vernacular School teachers, I submit, the shift system of education introduced by the Hon'ble Paranjpye in Bombay is a scheme which ought to be given a trial.

Mr. Hodgson asked whether I had any children. I have two sons and two daughters and the two daughters are of school-going age. Those of us who are fathers know very well that, by engaging private tutors, we can give them in one year the same tution which would take two years in ordinary Vernacular schools. So, if the shift system is introduced, the same teacher will be able to engage two classes in the same day and thereby we can reduce the number of teachers and increase the pay of the existing number of teachers. That system has been accepted in Bombay, and I ask why the Director of Public Instruction did not favour the House with his views on a system like that.

He was telling us that if the children of artisans are given the present training in cultural education they would do their work better, and that, if they are taught Mathematics and Science and English, they would do it still better. That is why I said that he is colossally ignorant of the local conditions. He does not care to inspect schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I protest against the statement. It is not true.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No, Sir. He does not find time. I believe it is not part of his duty to inspect schools for a variety of reasons.

PRESIDENT: He says he does inspect schools.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): However, I can boldly say that he is ignorant of local conditions; because I am submitting, many a son of artisans does bother us for getting Government appointments. The nephew of a great piper of Varkalai was troubling me for getting him a peon's place or at least that of a watcher paid out of contingencies. I told him: "If only you had not neglected your family profession, people would have sought after you. My dhobi's son is in want of a Government job. My barber's son has passed the School Final Examination and knows motor driving also. He is in

need of a job. I ask Mr. Hodgson whether any one of these people is doing their parents' profession better, or only trying to get Government employment. Mr. Hodgson said that he would not bother Mr. Lloyd George He is no more the Prime Minister. (*Laughter.*) Mr. Hodgson will be the retired Director of Public Instruction with a very good pension. I may tell him that, so far as myself and many of us are concerned, we will select the kind of school where our children should be sent to. We know how to provide for them. I am even now on the look-out to see whether an intelligent system of education is followed outside Travancore, so that my children can be educated there. I do not wish that my daughters are cramped with Geometry and things of that kind which make monsters of girls. (*Laughter.*) Therefore so far as we are concerned, there is no trouble. I am speaking, Sir, of the masses who want, in this country, food and sanitation.

Mr. Hodgson said: "We do not invite them to our schools. We never compel them to study in Classes IV to VII". I submit, Sir, in regard to that mentality of the Director, the sooner it is changed the better. Of course, he does not know law. Sir, there are houses of prostitutes. In England prostitution is prohibited by law. In France it is regulated. It is not open for a prostitute to say: "We do not invite persons. We do not compel them to come to us. They are men who have attained the age of maturity". The State says "No", in England. In France the State says: "You must be medically examined. You must undertake to follow such and such directions", and so on. Similarly, I submit there are several other professions and vocations in life with which the State interferes and says that for the safety of the public they should abide by certain rules. Here is the Director of Pubic Instruction keeping open a number of schools having classes IV to VII and saying, at the same time: "I do not invite you". He is holding out some hopes by allowing them certain comforts and by giving them some training, but once they get out of the schools he says "It is not my responsibility. You mind your own business and go". That is why I call him bureaucratic. It is regrettable, the Director in spite of his long experience of the country has that mentality. Mr. Hodgson said that unemployment is a necessary consequence of the culture he gives, and Mr. Mammen Mappillai helped him by saying that society would adjust itself in course of time, and that that was why Scotland was conquered by England. Sir, our days of conquest are gone. (*Laughter.*) These are days when we have to support ourselves and also struggle with those who come here for exploiting us. No conquest or occupation is possible for us. So we cannot imitate Scotland or England.

The only thing which I want to refer to is—I am not certain who said it, either Mr. Hodgson or Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar—the statement that the effect of the system is an army of unemployed men. Mr. Hodgson does not care for it. That is probably because he would be far away beyond the reach of this army by the time this problem becomes acute. Now they are only bombarding the non-officials and

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

petty officials of the Government. Before long, by the time the problem becomes acute, they may bombard the Prime Minister, if the Director continues to manufacture, every year, about three thousand persons who pass and three to four thousand who have not passed. My only consolation is that unfortunately Mr. Hodgson will not remain here, when this problem eventually leads to grave troubles.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to say much now on this question. A good deal has been said on both sides and a good deal has been said by way of contradicting the arguments put forward by Mr. Raman Pillai. The whole thing is a question of how we view the function of the Department of Education. I take it that Mr. Raman Pillai and others are of the opinion that the business of the department is not merely to impart knowledge and to develop the intelligence and the mental powers of the people, not only to fit them to discharge their duties as citizens, whatever those duties may be in future life, but to provide them with some definite occupation. Now, Sir, I do not regard that as among the functions of the Department of Education. I regard that as the function of the Department of Industries rather than that of Education; and the separation both in the Madras Presidency and in Travancore of the control and working of the industrial schools from the Department of Education seems to me to show that the Government also recognise this truth.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether commercial education is not under the Director of Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I said industrial and not commercial. We ourselves have made provision for commercial classes in schools. But, as far as I know, no pupils are taking up that subject.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know if, in the G. O. appointing the Director of Public Instruction, there is not a clear reference to the effect that it is one of his main duties to advance the cause of technical education in the State?

PRESIDENT: He is saying that it has been changed by the separation of the two departments.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): It may have been the function some years ago. In order that the department might carry out the function, we had as an experimental measure, attached some industrial classes to some of our Vernacular Middle Schools. But we found that it was not a success. We have found that far too much time would be required for teaching industries to the pupils to enable them to devote sufficient time to general education. But if they gave sufficient time to general education they could not acquire any appreciable skill in any of the industries. I look for a solution of this question as I believe it is is being solved in other countries. Some members

appear to suppose that I am entirely ignorant of the measures that are being adopted elsewhere. I have studied what is being done in America, in Great Britain and elsewhere. And the great consensus of opinion that I have seen, which I am glad that the Resident in Travancore also shares and which Mr. Raman Pillai referred to, seems to be that the attempt to combine industrial or technical education along with the general education is not to be advocated. Mr. Raman Pillai quoted Mr. Ramalinga Reddi. Well Sir, Mr. Ramalinga Reddi may hold the opinion that he does, but it does not alter mine. He quoted Mr. Couchman's Committee. I would quote an officer who held a high post in the Education Department, in Madras and the Central Provinces, Mr. Mayhew, who, at a conference at Simla, said definitely and positively that it was a wrong thing to attempt to combine industrial with general education. Sir, I believe an ideal system of education would be somewhat as follows. We should have a series of stages of general education corresponding to our primary education, Vernacular middle school education, our English school education and finally our collegiate education, all of them merging into one another and providing general or cultural education. In addition to that, Sir, I think that in some department, such as the Department of Industries, we should have a series of technical or industrial schools. The pupils who pass out of the primary schools will, as was rightly said at a conference about three years ago, be hardly fit to enter upon the course of studies in technical or industrial schools. But at about the stage of the V or the VI class those pupils who are unable to proceed to higher studies will have sufficient general instruction to go to a lower grade technical or industrial school. Those that reach the VII, VIII or IX class or the IV, V or VI Form of an English High School, can go to an industrial or technical school of the higher grade. Those that pass to the collegiate grade of general education may go to what are called technological institutions and pursue higher courses of technical studies. That, I believe, would be the right form to adopt so as to meet the needs of the people of any country by way of giving them both general education, and to those requiring it, technical or special education.

I hardly think it necessary for me to reply to many small points such as whether I was right in quoting Mr. Krishnan Nair in saying that a running train could not be stopped and points of that kind which Mr. Raman Pillai has brought up just now. I think it is sufficient to go on with the broad principle which I have been trying to emphasise, that as for giving employment to people, it is the business not of the Department of Education but of others. The function of the Department of Education is, I submit, to fit them to discharge their duties better than they would have been able to do, but for the general education received, whatever be the duties that befall them in life.

With regard to Mr. Raman Pillai's idea of amalgamating Vernacular Middle Schools with English Middle Schools, I have elsewhere dealt at length with this subject. I have always said and I shall still continue to say that I do not think that plan is feasible because it involves higher fees for poor pupils which they could not afford to pay,

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is not that system adopted in Mysore and Cochin?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instuction*): I do not care what is done in Mysore or Cochin. But in this country we have adopted it to a certain extent, and it is necessary if we are going to adopt it to demand higher fees from pupils. I have always said that the Vernacular Middle School provides education for the masses who are so poor that they are unable to afford education in the English schools. With a view to combine English education to a higher degree than hitherto with the Vernacular schools, we consulted people in places where Vernacular middle schools were situated and asked them if they wished to have English as a compulsory subject, pointing out at the same time that if they had it, it would be necessary to enhance fees by 50 per cent. We got an answer in the affirmative from nine schools only; and about 250 students in these nine schools are being taught English. The point to be emphasised is that, inasmuch as something like over 95 per cent. of the people of this country are illiterate in English if we do not provide education, as far as possible, through the vernacular to those who do not know English or who cannot pay for it, they will have to go without education at this stage altogether. I do not agree with Mr. Raman Pillai in saying that it is quite sufficient if they stop at the IV class and that there is no advantage in going on further and learning geometry, etc.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I submit a point of explanation? What I meant to ask was whether after passing the IV class they could not go to the Anglo-vernacular schools where they may study mathematics, geometry, etc., even at the cost of paying higher fees.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): As I have often said, it is extremely necessary that pupils should not stop at the primary stage and that the only way is through the Vernacular Middle Schools where they will get some higher education by the aid of which their mental faculties may be developed and they will be able to discriminate, to form judgments, and take an intelligent interest in the questions of the day and make an intelligent use of the education which is given to them. I oppose the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 268.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, in view of the fact that no hopes have been held out of a reconsideration —

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Louder, please.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, in view of the fact that no hopes have been held out of a reconsideration

of the existing system of education, I fear I have to emphasise one or two points which I referred to in the course of my speech with reference to the last motion.

PRESIDENT: I do not know whether you can move your motion which is identical with the previous motion, if it is not on grounds which have been already urged. As a matter of fact, you began by saying that you were not going to make the motion. If you are going to move it on different grounds, I have no objection.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): No, not on different grounds. So, I will abide by the ruling of the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Then I take it that you do not move it.

The following motion was accordingly not moved:—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

268. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,037 for controlling agencies by Rs. 100.

Motions 269 to 276.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

269. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 800 for travelling allowance by Rs. 500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

270. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,000 for laboratory charges by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

271. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,800 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

272. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 800 for travelling allowance by Rs. 200.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

273. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for books and periodicals by Rs. 500.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

274. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for repair and manufacture of furniture by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

275. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for training of students in first aid.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

276. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 71,091 for collegiate education by Rs 100.

Motion 277.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

277. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,805 for English High Schools for Girls by Rs. 100.

The Girls' College has been in existence in Travancore for over 40 years and has been sending out many lady graduates and undergraduates, and the time has now come to consider how to provide for these educated young ladies. It is a matter to be noted that many of them come from poor parents. It is with very great difficulty that parents

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

manage to find the wherewithal to give the necessary education to these girls in the hope that when they pass out from the College they may be suitably employed in the Government service and they may be able to look after their aged parents or guardians. It may be that some of them may not be lucky enough to find suitable husbands. Whatever the reasons may be, we are now confronted with the fact that there are a number of young ladies who have been duly qualified, of course, not to speak of graduates in medicine who are waiting for employment. My submission is that a rule should be passed and strictly enforced for the employment of qualified ladies in lower grade secondary schools. I have mislaid my figures. I find that even in girls' schools attached to convents, male teachers are preferred to lady teachers. In Quilon Convent school, for example, I find that all the teachers are males. No doubt, from a financial point of view, it is much cheaper for the authorities to engage male than female teachers. My object in bringing this motion is to impress upon this House the necessity for a rule like that, in spite of that being costly. I may also point out the desirability of allowing these lady graduates to get themselves trained in the Teachers' College without being put to the necessity of undergoing a course of practical teaching in any schools or colleges. With these observations, I beg to place the motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I quite agree with Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai in his statement that girls' schools should have lady teachers. Whether in the Convent or in any other place, preference should be given to lady teachers. Another question which I have to bring forward is that there must be no tendency to throw obstacles in the way of married women getting into the college staff. There was a recent case in the college.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): May I ask whether he can refer to the college on this motion?

PRESIDENT: We are talking of schools now, Mr. Hoogewerf.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): That tendency has caught the college now. It may also catch on to the High Schools. Before it catches the High Schools, I want to sound a note of warning. Motherhood is the goal of a woman's life. Education is only a means to an end. Government grant maternity leave and have recognised the principle. If you want to insist upon unmarried ladies alone being entertained, it would have a very disastrous effect upon female education. I offer these observations for the consideration of this House.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think I need say much on this matter. Mr. Raman Pillai says that many, both graduate and undergraduate ladies, are on the look-out for employment and as a remedy for that, he suggests that the employment of ladies in lower grade English middle schools should be made compulsory. Does he mean that it should be made compulsory on the

part of the department to employ them or compulsory on the ladies to take up employment? Because, my difficulty is that graduate ladies cannot be persuaded to take up employment in private schools or Government Middle Schools.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether there was any instance of a lady graduate declining to take up employment in the lower grade or in other schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I have frequently advised the lady graduates who come and see me to do so.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, they are entertained, I know.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I advised some of them to accept the post of Headmistress of an English Middle School. But they do not like to go out. I quite agree with Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai that it is very unfortunate that so many of our girls' schools are staffed with male teachers. When I visit girls' schools, whether English or Vernacular schools, I always make it a point of enquiring how many male teachers there are in the school, and I always include information on that point in my Inspection reports. I do what I can to persuade and urge the managers of private schools to employ women instead of men as far as possible; but the fact is that the number of qualified women is not sufficient to man all the schools in the State; and as I have said, it frequently happens that qualified ladies are unwilling to go out of Trivandrum. They want to get into the College or the High School here. There is only one College and only one High School. Every year we invite candidates and I do my best to induce them to take up such appointments.

I do not think Mr. Raman Pillai is right in saying that there are no ladies employed in the Quilon English School. The Headmaster is a man, but I think there are one or two nuns on the staff of that school. I do not know exactly the number. At least one of the ladies is not a nun.

I do not think I need say anything in respect of what Mr. Hoogewerf had to say. He agrees with Mr. Raman Pillai and I agree very largely with him too. As regards the question of unemployment of married women, as a rule, we accept married and unmarried ladies for our employment. If Mr. Hoogewerf would see the list of the teachers of our Vernacular Middle Schools and primary schools, he would find a very large army of married women, women with children, who are employed there. It happened in one particular instance in the case of a post which requires rather special qualifications that the appointment was given to an unmarried lady in preference to a married lady.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What will the Department do if the lady marries tomorrow? (*Laughter*).

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): One has to take risks in this world. (*Laughter*).

Sir, I do not think anything remains to be said by me on this motion. I think Mr. Raman Pillai will not press his motion.

[President.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know Mr. Hodgson's view about allowing lady students to undergo training in the Training College without any previous experience as a teacher.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I forgot about that. I am always in favour of training ladies in the Training College, even if they have little experience as teachers. But it is not sound policy to send totally inexperienced teachers to be trained. They will get far more advantage from the training if they have previous experience as teachers. For my part, I would prefer them always, whether men or women, to have previous experience as teachers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 278.

The following motion was not made: --

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

278. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 56,217 for establishment by Rs. 100.

Motion 279.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

279. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,828 for land acquisition charges.

Sir, there are other members who are better acquainted with this question of land acquisition than myself. I understand that there are two English Middle Schools within 2 miles and 4½ miles each, of this proposed school site, that the proposed site is very near a mosque, and that people of the locality themselves are not agreed as to the advisability of having the school located on this particular site. I also understand that cheaper sites are available which might not have the disadvantages of this particular site. Moreover, there are only 21 students or so in that particular school. My submission is that, by appointing an Arabic Munshi, and by giving other conveniences to Mahomedans in the school at Thuckalai or some other school, the additional charge might be avoided.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai, are you going to make your motion? It seems to be identical with this.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): The arguments are not identical. Therefore I want to speak.

PRESIDENT: You may speak now and also make your motion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*); May I move it now?

PRESIDENT: No. You may move it later on, but you may speak now.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod.*):

തിരുവിതാംകോട്ട മാഹമ്മദീയൻ പള്ളിക്കൂടം വേണ്ടുന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഞാൻ ഒരിക്കലും യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. തിരുവിതാംകോട്ട് ഒരു മാഹമ്മദീയപള്ളിക്കൂടം പണിചെയ്യിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു സ്ഥലം പൊന്നും വിലയുംകൊടുത്ത് എടുക്കുന്നതിനു ൧൪൦൦-ററിൽ പരം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജററിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളത് ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. രാമൻപിള്ള പറയുന്നത്. ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. മഹമ്മദീയരുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവും അതിലേക്കുള്ള അഭിരുചിയും വളരെ കുറവായിരിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടും, തിരുവിതാംകോട്ട ധാരാളം മാഹമ്മദീയർ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും അവർക്ക് അവിടെയൊരു പള്ളിക്കൂടം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. എന്നാൽ മറെറാരു സംഗതി എനിക്കിവിടെ അറിയിക്കാനുള്ളത് തിരുവിതാംകോട്ടുള്ള മാഹമ്മദീയർ കുറെ മുമ്പെ രണ്ടുപക്ഷികളായി പിരിയുകയും ഈ രണ്ടു കക്ഷികളും ഒട്ടു വളരെ പണം അനാവശ്യമായി വ്യയം ചെയ്കയും ചെയ്തു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഇവർ കുറെ കാലംകൊണ്ട് യോജിച്ചു നടന്നുവരവെ ഈ പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിന്റെ ആലോചനയുണ്ടായി. ഒരാൾ ഒരു കെട്ടിടം വയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് വാങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലത്ത് പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിന് എടുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ അവർ രണ്ടുകക്ഷികളായി തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് അറിയുന്നത്. ഇനിയും രണ്ടു കക്ഷികളാകുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും നന്നായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഗവൺമെൻറ് നല്ല ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ് പള്ളിക്കൂടം കെട്ടിക്കുന്നത്. ൧,൪൦൦-റിൽ പരം രൂപാകൊണ്ടു പൊന്നും വിലയും കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയാകയില്ല. സാമാന്യമായി അവിടങ്ങളിൽ സെൻറിന് ൨൧൦ രൂപാവരെ വിലയുള്ളതാണ്. പൊന്നുംവിലയിൽ സങ്കടക്കാരായി അപ്പീൽ പോകാതിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങിനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഒരു വലിയ തുക പൊന്നുംവില കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരും. മാഹമ്മദീയരുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനായി ഗവൺമെൻറു കൂടുതൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു വിരോധമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്ന് അരമൈയിൽ തെക്കൊ വടക്കൊ മാറി സ്ഥലമെടുക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ലാഭം വരുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു പള്ളിയുടെ സമീപത്തിലാണ് ഈ പള്ളിക്കൂടം വയ്ക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതിൽ അവരിൽ ചിലക്ക് ആക്ഷേപമുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നു. അതിനാൽ പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തുനിന്നും അര മൈൽ നീക്കി സ്ഥാപിച്ചാൽ ഇവർ തമ്മിലുള്ള വഴക്കുകൾ ഇല്ലാതായിത്തീരും. ഈ സംഗ

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

തിയിൽ അവൎക്കു തമ്മിൽ വഴക്കുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കണമെന്നല്ലാതെ അവൎക്കു പള്ളിക്കൂടം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനൊ അതിലേക്കു പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതിനൊ എനിക്കാക്ഷേപമില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I believe that this is a proposal to reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,828 for land acquisition charges. This relates to two schools, one, the proposed Mahomedan school at Tiruvitankod, and the other the departmental school at Todupuzha. The arguments adduced by Mr. Raman Pillai and Mr. Kumara Pillai relate, I think, entirely to the former of the two schools. Some years ago, when a special enquiry was held as to the needs of the Mahomedans, I encouraged them to send a larger number of their children to English and Vernacular schools. Subsequently, in a G. O. dealing with the education of the Mahomedan community Government gave an undertaking to establish or to maintain or to support four English schools for Mahomedans. There is one already at Alleppey, and I am glad to say that it is prospering well. There is now the Fifth Form there and I think there are now about 150 students on the rolls, and that is very satisfactory. There is another at Alwaye and I am sorry that it is not in a very satisfactory condition. The other two were to be at Tiruvitankod and Chirayinkil. I do not think any step has been taken towards opening the Chirayinkil school. Two or three years ago——

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the strength of the school now?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The strength of the school is 21. I think the figure given by Mr. Raman Pillai is accurate. The strength is certainly very poor. It will continue to be so until they get a building.

Mr. Kumara Pillai pointed out that there are two factions there, and that that stands in the way of the proposal to establish an English school there. It is quite true. I have been to Tiruvitankod two or three times. I have received many petitions from the people of the place. Numerous deputations have waited on me; first of all one party will come to me by one door and explain to me the whole situation as they view it. As soon as the first has gone, the other party will come by another door and represent their case. About 1920, the Inspector of English Schools and the Land Revenue Commissioner inspected this site. The Land Revenue Commissioner was of opinion that it was too costly, and we asked the people to find another site.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to know whether the proposed school is for boys or for girls.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): For boys.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the special necessity for a special school for Mahomedan boys alone?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is

a very large Mahomedan population there and we already have a Mahomedan Vernacular school there.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Are other caste boys refused admission, or are they also taken in?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think there is any rule. Nobody has applied till now. There is no likelihood of anybody applying. The Dewan Peishkar selected another site. That would not satisfy the people and I began to receive petitions after petitions protesting against the same.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether any land was acquired at the cost of Government for the Malayala Brahmins' School at Kulakkada.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether, for any special school for any particular community, lands were acquired at Government cost. If the school is for Mahomedan girls, that is a different question. But as it is a school exclusively for Mahomedan boys, I am raising the question. I ask whether the Director of Public Instruction can give me any instance where land has been acquired at Government cost for a school for the males of any one particular community.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not recollect any such case. Mr. Pandarattil gave the land for the Kulakkada school. In this case the people themselves have agreed to erect a building there. Ultimately it was decided that, in conformity with the wishes of the great majority of the Mahomedans of Tiruvitankod the site proposed to be acquired, must be purchased and a school located there. I might repeat that the Government stopped with the acquisition of the site. The Mahomedans themselves have undertaken to erect a building. That is how the matter stands. As far as I have been able to judge, the party in favour of this particular site are in the majority, and Government have made a promise that they would establish a school at Tiruvitankod. Therefore, it is only right and fair that we should keep the promise. I have inspected the site. Although the mosque is not very far, it is not objectionably near. The intention of the Tiruvitankod Mahomedans is not only to have a school but also to have a hostel built in the same compound so that Mahomedan boys might come and reside there. If that is done, I am sure the number will increase.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What are the special subjects taught in that School?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The one special subject now taught there is the Koran. There is no other difference in the curricula between the Mahomedan school and the other English Schools.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is it not possible to introduce Koran in the neighbouring school at Thuckalai?

case also they do carry great weight. I wish to rest the case on another principle. Mr. Kumara Pillai said that there are factions in Tiruvitankod. I have also some acquaintance with that place. The people of that locality appear to be very litigious and they will do everything in their power to spite each other. Government should give as few occasions as possible for the recrudesence of these factions.

PRESIDENT: In that case we should not acquire any site at all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): My point is only this. One party offers to put up a building. The other party desires the property to be acquired for a school then deposits the money for the building in order to show good faith.

PRESIDENT: There is no building on the site now selected.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That is not what I mean. Unless the party makes a deposit, Government will not believe that they are earnest in their endeavours. That shows that the spirit of faction is still rife in Tiruvitankod. Therefore our chief aim should be to see if it is not possible to give the people of Tiruvitankod the convenience of an English school without giving rise to any of these factions. I think Mr. Kumara Pillai's assurance that other sites are available within a furlong or two of this site, which will satisfy both parties, is a question which might be considered by the Government and the departmental authorities. The people of the locality give much weight to the words of Mr. Kumara Pillai. I would therefore suggest that Government or the departmental authorities might inspect the other sites mentioned by Mr. Kumara Pillai.

PRESIDENT: I have inspected the sites in the neighbourhood. I do not think the sites referred to by Mr. Kumara Pillai are different from those that I have inspected. However, Government are not very keen on acquiring this site. Government are only anxious to keep the promise made by them some years ago. If by waiting for some time Mr. Kumara Pillai will be in a position to reconcile the two parties, Government would certainly wait.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): As regards the suitability of the locality I am indifferent. My point was whether a separate school should be insisted upon at present when the tendency of the various communities is to throw open all Government schools to all communities. No doubt Mahomedans might be given concessions and facility to study Koran in all departmental schools.

PRESIDENT: There seems to be a difference of opinion. We will put the question to the vote.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): On the assurance given, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: What is the assurance?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): That the Government will consider the question.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I can promise that I will try my best to effect a reconciliation, and let the Government know of it in two months.

PRESIDENT: Certainly that is quite enough.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 280 to 291.

The following motions were not made: –

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

280. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,828 for land acquisition charges by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

281. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,280 for four head mistresses by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

282. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for land acquisition charges by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

283. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,500 for Middle Schools for Boys by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

284. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,73,535 for English school education by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

285. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,36,132 for head masters and teachers by Rs. 36,132.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

286. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,500 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 7,500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

287. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

288. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,096 for cleaning charges by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

289. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,38,036 for head mistresses and assistants by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

290. To omit the allotment of Rs. 28,336 for additional teachers in Vernacular schools for boys.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

291. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,704 for additional teachers in Vernacular schools for girls.

Motion 292.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

292. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for conversion of Malayalam into Tamil schools.

Sir, I was not able to understand what this conversion means. We have heard of all manner of conversions. Conversion of schools appeared to me to be novel. So I thought of sending up this motion. Of course, we wish to hear from Mr. Hodgson what it is going to be.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, we are now at motion No. 292 according to the agenda and the 142nd, motion sent up by Mr. Raman Pillai. It deals with the conversion of Malayalam schools into Tamil schools. I would refer Mr. Raman Pillai to the Government order in which that was laid down, published in the Government Gazette of the 6th February 1923. The Government order was promulgated with reference to the conversion of Malayalam schools in the southern taluks into Tamil Schools. The Government order is numbered Dis. 105/23/Rev.-E. Trivandrum, dated 28th January 1923. I need not go into the contents of that; I think everybody is familiar with it although Mr. Raman Pillai seems not to be. The general idea is that it is desirable, in the taluks in which Tamil is the vernacular language, to give instruction through the medium of Tamil.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know the taluks in which it is proposed to be done?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In Tovala, Agastisvaram, Shencottah and, to a certain extent, in Kalkulam and Eraniel, and, after enquiries are made, in Vilavankod. I think that is the correct statement. The matter, as the House might know, came up on several occasions at the Popular Assembly, raised by Mr. Ganapati Pillai who takes very great interest in the Tamil language. Various orders, from time to time, have been passed on the subject. But these did not satisfy the Tamil-lovers and with a view to arrive at a solution of the difficulty I went myself to the various taluks and invited all persons interested in the question to come forward and meet me at Martandam, Eraniel, Kalkulam, Bhuthapandi, Tazhakudi, Nagercoil and Shencottah.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether there are Malayalam-speaking people in those taluks?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There are.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know their percentage? What will they do?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot give you the exact percentage, but I might say that their number in Tovala is negligible. I have not got the figures here.

PRESIDENT: His question is what the Malayalam-speaking people in those taluks are to do. Is it not so, Mr. Padmanabha Pillai?

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Yes, Sir.

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am coming to that, Sir. The Government order which I quoted provides for the conversion of Malayalam schools into Tamil schools. I think I had better read one or two paragraphs from it to make the matter quite plain:

"As a rule all existing Malayalam departmental schools in the Tamil taluks will be converted into Tamil ones wherever the Tamil-speaking pupils form the preponderating majority".

In those schools in which Malayalam pupils form the preponderating majority this will not be done.

"In special localities where there is scope for a Malayalam as well as a Tamil school, as at Kottar, both will be maintained independently, or both sections (Malayalam and Tamil) will be kept up in the same school as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction as in the case of the Kalkulam and Suchindram Vernacular Middle schools. When this process of conversion is completed, there will be a sufficient number of departmental Tamil schools in each taluk. Government would, therefore, both for this reason and on financial grounds, prefer to encourage the opening of new private schools for Tamil education in Tamil taluks and would aid them with grants under the Rules in force. According to the latest Census figures the Tamil taluks occupy the following rank, judged by the percentages of Tamil population, *viz.*, Tovala, Agastisvaram, Eraniel, Shencottah, Kalkulam and Vilavankod. This relative importance of the taluks should be borne in mind in giving effect to the policy of converting Malayalam schools into Tamil ones. In the case of the schools in the Vilavankod taluk where the majority of the Tamils are reported to be speaking a mixture of Tamil and Malayalam, the wishes of the parents of children who are classed as Tamil should also be ascertained before action is taken on the above lines".

MR. J. JOHN NIDRIY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the percentage adopted to determine the majority?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am sorry I have not got the figures. They were all sent to the Government along with the Report upon which this Government order has been passed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there are facilities for teaching Malayalam in those taluks?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hodgson said he was coming to that.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There are in Kottar both a Malayalam section and a Tamil section in the Vernacular Middle school. In fact the Middle school in Kottar is a double school.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In the schools under the present arrangement is there any facility for the teaching of Malayalam?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I will come to that. The order is that such schools as contain a preponderating majority, of Tamil-speaking pupils should be converted into Tamil ones. This year we are converting only the first class of such schools into Tamil classes; next year the second class also will be converted, and so on, until all classes in Tamil schools have become 'tamilised'. But at the same time, the order says:

"As this conversion can, however, be effected only gradually, Tamil will meanwhile be introduced as a second language, wherever necessary and practicable, in Classes III and IV of Malayalam schools. In the Tamil schools now existing and those that may become Tamil schools by conversion, Malayalam will be taught as second language in classes III and IV, the object being to help the Tamils to learn to read and write the official language and keep in touch with the Malayalam-speaking people of the country; the required number of periods should be found by an adjustment of the timetable from the regular periods of work within school-hours."

So that provision will be made for instruction in Malayalam also in the schools which are 'tamilised.' We have asked for a grant of Rs. 1,500 for 1099. For the present it has not cost us very much because the Inspector of Vernacular schools and the Inspectress have both reported that, to a very large extent, the existing teachers are Tamil-knowing and are able to teach Tamil in class I as a second language in Malayalam schools and also to teach Tamil in classes III and IV. So that the cost is not very great, but it must after a time necessarily rise.

MR. K. P RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I want to know, out of the boys now studying, how many are Tamil boys :

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): The present boys have to study Malayalam as well as Tamil.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is not Tamil made optional now-a-days ?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): In some schools, Tamil is taught as an optional, but it is not universally taught.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): തമിഴ്ഭാഷ വളരെ നല്ലതാണെന്നുള്ളതിനുപുറമെ ആ ഭാഷയോടു എനിക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ബഹുമാനവും ഉണ്ട്. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം തോവാള അഗസ്തീശ്വരം ഈ രണ്ടു താലൂക്കുകളും കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിനോടു തൊട്ടുകിടക്കുന്നവയാണ്. എപ്പോഴും തമിഴ്ഭാഷ സംസാരിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളുമായുള്ള പെരുമാററം കൊണ്ടു ആ ഭാഷയോടു ബഹുമാനമുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. തമിഴ്ഭാഷാ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ട സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അതിലേക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളെ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ ആരും ആക്ഷേപിക്കയില്ല. മിസ്റ്റർ ഹഡ്സൺ മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞതു തോവാള, അഗസ്തീശ്വരം, ഇരണിയൽ, വിളവംകോടു ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ പല പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളെ തമിഴ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പല യോഗങ്ങളും വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടിയതിൽ പിന്നീടു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയതാണെന്നും ആണ്. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള യോഗങ്ങൾ നടന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞതിൽപിന്നീടാണ് മിക്കവാറും ആളുകൾ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ സംഗതിയെ വേണ്ടപോലെ പരസ്യപ്പെടുത്തി ആലോചിച്ചിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ വാസ്തവമായ അഭിപ്രായം മിസ്റ്റർ ഹഡ്സൺ അറിയാൻ സാധിക്കുമായി

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

ഞന്നു. തക്കല താലൂക്കകച്ചേരിയുടെ മുൻവശത്തുള്ള പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തെ തമിഴ് പള്ളിക്കൂടമാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിൽ മലയാളം സംസാരിക്കുന്നവരെത്ര, തമിഴ് സംസാരിക്കുന്നവരെത്ര, പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിൽ പോകുന്നവരെത്ര എന്നുള്ള കണക്കുകൾ ആരു നോക്കി എന്നറിയുന്നില്ലാ.

PRESIDENT: The conversion depends upon the fact whether Tamil boys or Malayalam boys preponderate in that particular school.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavancod*): തക്കല പള്ളിക്കൂടത്തിലെ കണക്കു അദ്ദേഹം തന്നെ വരുത്തി പരിശോധിച്ചാൽ ഈ സംശയം തീൎന്നുപോകുന്നതാണ്. ൧-ാംക്ലാസ് മുതൽ തമിഴ് ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തി ഹെഡ്മാസ്റ്റർ നടത്തിത്തുടങ്ങി. കുട്ടികൾ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞു തുടങ്ങി. തമിഴിനോട് അവൎക്കു എത്ര സ്നേഹമുണ്ടോ അതുപോലെമലയാളത്തോടും സ്നേഹമുണ്ട്. ഞങ്ങൾ ഇന്നേവരെ സംസാരിച്ചുവരുന്ന മലയാളഭാഷയെ ഇപ്പോൾ മാററാൻ തരമില്ല, അതു സാധിക്കയുമില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവരവരുടെ ഭാഷയറിഞ്ഞ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ വിരോധമില്ല. കല്കുളം താലൂക്കിൽ പ്രധാനമായിനില്ക്കുന്ന ഭാഷ ഏതാണെന്നുവേണ്ടപോലെ അന്വേഷിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു അതിലേക്കുള്ള പള്ളക്കൂടമാണ് അവൎക്കു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത്. മിസ്റ്റർ ഹഡ്സൺ മാൎത്താണ്ഡം, കുലശേഖരം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വന്നു യോഗം വിളിച്ചു കൂട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. പക്ഷെ അതു ശരിയായ ഒരുയോഗമല്ലായിരുന്നു. പല മാതിരിയിലും കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾ മിസ്റ്റർ ഹഡ്സന്ന് മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഏതായാലും ഇത്രമാത്രമേ പറയാനുള്ളൂ. അതാതു ദേശത്തിനു അനുരൂപമായ ഭാഷ ഏതൊ അതിനെ ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തണം. അതിന് നാലുപേരൊ പത്തുപേരൊ പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടോ, ഹെഡ്മാസ്റ്റന്മാരുടെ റിപ്പോൎട്ടുകൊണ്ടോ ഭാഷയെ മാററാൻ പാടില്ല. തമിഴ് ഭാഷയോടു എനിക്കു ബഹുമാനമുണ്ട്. തമിഴ്പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഏൎപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു എനിക്കു യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I said yesterday that the Tamil language has a richer literature than Malayalam. But the fact remains that ours is a Malayalam country; the fact remains that the State language is Malayalam; the fact also remains that most of the Tamil pupils understand Malayalam. I strongly object to Malayalam pupils being turned into Tamil pupils. Every facility must be given to the study of Tamil in Tamil areas. But Tamil can never replace Malayalam for the reasons stated by me. It will lead to water-tight

compartments being formed. What will become of a lad who only knows Tamil? How will he work as a Tahsildar or any other officer in north Travancore? I found that the people there do not understand a bit of Tamil, whereas the Tamilians understand Malayalam. For these reasons, I strongly support Mr. Raman Pillai's motion.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I ask Mr. Hoogewerf whether, consistently with the position he is taking now, he would be in favour of substituting Malayalam for English composition in the E. S. L. C. examination for Anglo-Indians who do not understand Malayalam?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Certainly not. English is the *lingua franca* of the whole world, and Malayalam is the *lingua franca* of Travancore. A time may come when English will become the *lingua franca* of Travancore also.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, in supporting the motion, I wish to say that nobody in this House is against Tamil education. It should be taught in the Tamil taluks, namely, Tovala, Agastisvaram and Eraniel. But to say that Tamil should be taught in the schools of these taluks is quite different from saying that it should replace Malayalam.

PRESIDENT: Nobody says that. The G. O. does not say that. Mr. Hodgson too did not say that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I shall not deal with that matter. The object of the provision in the budget is that Malayalam schools should be converted into Tamil schools; that was what I understood in the beginning. I have got an identical motion; but since Mr. Hodgson has assured that Malayalam would also be taught in those schools, I do not move that motion.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. The necessity for imparting proper education in Tamil to the Tamil-speaking population has been earnestly and repeatedly brought to the notice of Government by their best representatives both in public meetings and in the Popular Assembly, and, as a consequence, it will be seen from their proceedings No. 105 of 1923, dated 28th January 1923, that Government have bestowed their careful consideration on this much-vexed question and have at last provided a redress which neverthless does not meet their requirements in full. Still it has given the Tamilians some satisfaction for which they are extremely grateful. To try to upset this arrangement is neither friendliness to the Tamilians nor common fairness. தானம் செய்வானைத் தடுக்கலாகாது is a well-known and wholesome maxim. What sin have the poor Tamilians committed that even this barest of justice should be now denied to them? Be it remembered that the Tamil-speaking population of Travancore, who pay their taxes as readily as their Malayalam-loving friends, are 6,25,000 in number. 6,25,000 human beings are craving for education in their own mother tongue.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know in how many taluks these 6,00,000 persons are spread over.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): These statistics are given by the Government. The people are spread over Kalkulam, Tovala, Kottar, Eraniel, Shencottah and also in the neighbourhood of Devicolam.

6,25,000 human beings are craving for education in their own mother-tongue. The Tamilians are asking for Tamil and Mr. Hoogewerf is prepared to give them instruction in Malayalam! That is kind indeed.

Verily, when children ask for bread, we are to give them a stone! But the unsatisfied craving will be there and it will be a stupendous fact whose importance cannot be hid under a bushel, that is, cannot be minimised by any amount of sophistical argument or forensic legerdemain!

Personally I have much regard for the Malayalam language, not only for its own sake but also for its close kinship to Tamil. And while I think we should welcome all legitimate efforts for the development of this daughter of Tamil, any attempt to maltreat the revered mother should, I submit, be sternly discouraged. Tamil, I think, has been recently pronounced to be a State language in the Civil Procedure Code. I have nothing to say against my Malayalee friends who are not opposed to instruction being given in Tamil.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to ask Mr. Lakshmana Pillai, whether when facilities are offered in every Malayalam school for the study of Tamil, how this appeal of starvation will hold good.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Why not turn the tables and ask that Malayalam may be given in the Tamil schools to be established to the same extent as Tamil in Malayalam taluks?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What difference will it make practically?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): It is all the same. The principle enunciated has existed that, in places where Tamil preponderates, there should be Tamil schools, and where Malayalam preponderates, Malayalam should be taught. This principle has not been attacked in the course of the discussion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know if Mr. Lakshmana Pillai objects to the creation of facilities for private teaching of Tamil in Malayalam schools?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): This is what the G. O. says:

"In the Tamil schools now existing and those that may become Tamil schools by conversion, Malayalam will be taught as second language in classes III and IV".

Some of our Malayalam-loving friends, in their feverish, though very natural, anxiety to give an impetus to the development of their

mother tongue, should not do that to their Tamilian brethren which they would themselves fain avoid, nay, powerfully resent, if directed towards their language. This is but justice and fair play. The Tamilians, so well spoken of by Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair to have served both Government and the people with faithfulnes and distinction, and who form the very back-bone of the trade and the industry of the country well deserve considerate treatment at the hands of Government.

It would be well to reflect in this connection, that by pressing the Tamilian to study Malayalam against his will, by offering him a premium to forget his own mother tongue(which, by the way, he will never do), the strain upon his nerves would be excessive beyond sufferance and exceptional, as he will, in addition to the study of his own mother-tongue, have to tackle the study of such a difficult language as English in order to keep abreast of the progressive needs of civilisation. What shadow of justification is there for putting this extra and, may I say, destructive strain upon him? Perhaps, he may require a working knowledge of Malayalam, just enough for the requirements of the public service, though even here, I may incidentally ask what the thousands of students who have passed out their School Leaving examination in Malayalam are now doing and what chances they have to enter the public service? The study of Malayalam therefore should be left entirely to the good will of the Tamilian himself.

Since the Government have embarked on the policy of converting Malayalam schools into Tamil ones, they have to provide for all the the necessary facilities and should not grudge the necessary expense. This is but the barest justice to the Tamilians. Mr. Kumara Pillai said that there are no Tamil students in a particular school in the First Class. This is because it will take some time till Tamil boys come to understand that the necessary facilities are furnished therein for the study of Tamil.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I know as a matter of fact that almost all the boys are Malayalam-speaking boys in that school at Tuckalai.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I expect that in a few years Tamil-speaking people will be forthcoming on the necessary notice being given.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, the subject under discussion is one which is very near to the heart of every south Travancorean. Time was when Tamil was the language of the Court and the Council Hall, if not for the whole of Travancore, at least for the southern portion of it. Gradually it has been elbowed out and driven to bay in the South. From being the language of councillors and statesmen it has become the language of the innocents; from adorning the Hall of Audience and the Council Chamber it has taken refuge in the home and the hearth. If persistent pursuit presses it hard even from its last resting place, it may legitimately turn to bay.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

I beg leave to quote to you in this connection a famous battle-cry of recent days:—"Ulster will fight, and Ulster will be in the right". To cut off facilities for Tamil study in Taluks where Tamilians live, I beg leave to submit, would be taken by my constituency as marking the nadir of their mother-tongue's vogue in this country and as having sounded the battle call for vigorous protest. I do not wish it to be understood that I say my Malayalee countrymen want to dominate us, Tamilians. I admit that a knowledge of Malayalam is absolutely essential for all citizens of Travancore. I would not stand in the way of Tamils assimilating the language, culture and civilisation of the country in which they live, so long as they do so of their own voluntary will. But, one people should not force down the throat of others, within the gate of their own language, civilisation and customs, a system of forcible feeding as it were. My friends in the House might admit that Tamil is one of the mothers of their mother-tongue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The latest pronouncement upon the subject is that Tamil can be treated as a sister of Malayalam, but not as the mother. (*Laughter.*)

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Indeed, it is there grandmother tongue. Grandmothers are often discarded. But, that does not mean that there should be strife among first cousins. The movers who are ardent partisans of individual partition of *Tarwad* property would easily understand us who stand for an independent position for Tamil in this country. The attitude of the present administration towards this problem is sane and sound. The policy which demands, if possible, a knowledge of Tamil in those who serve in the Tamil country, the publication of such matter in the Gazette in Tamil as may prove of importance to the Tamil-speaking population, and the recent opening of Tamil schools in the State where Tamilians live, are things which are felt to be absolute necessities for a considerably large section of His Highness' subjects. To put difficulties in the way of such a policy is to court discontent and estrangement. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move that the question be now put.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shenkottah*): I wish to know whether this House objects to Tamil being taught as the official language and Malayalam as the State language.

PRESIDENT: Nobody in the House seems to object to it. Does the House want a closure?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I oppose the motion. The subject is a very important one. I request that the motion for closure be not put. I am not for inflicting Malayalam upon Tamilians. There is nobody in this House who will be cruel. It is a matter of administrative inconvenience that induced

me to say a few words. If there is any definite limit on the Tamil country, difficulties of this kind would not have arisen, I do not think that in the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Shencottah, the difficulties regarding the respective claims of Malayalam and Tamil will not arise. But the matter is different in Kalkulam and Vilavankod. If we accept the principle, Sir, we may have to provide Tamil schools in Trivandrum. There are some places where there is a preponderant Tamil population. For example, take Chalai side where most people speak Tamil. If the principle is according to the preponderating population we shall have to establish a Tamil school at Chalai. The problem is much larger than one can at present appreciate.

PRESIDENT: It is not the Tamil-speaking population. It is the student population who resort to that particular School. That is the principle.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I see that point, Sir. So that difficulties of administration will become greater if we have some good Tamil schools in certain localities and if people do not take sufficient interest in Malayalam. There will be agitation to see that in Tamil districts only Officers knowing Tamil should be appointed. That argument will gather force as time goes on. I am distinctly in favour of having efficient Tamil schools in Tamil Districts. But at the same time, in order to prevent administrative difficulties, I am for having at least one Malayalam school at the headquarters of each taluk.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Sir, I do not want to dilate on the merits of the question; but I may refer to one or two points that have arisen not only now but when I happened to serve as Inspector in the Southern Range in South Travancore many years ago and had to inspect a considerable number of schools. In those days, there was no distinction between the Inspector of English Schools and the Inspector of Malayalam Schools; the whole range was under one officer in charge of a great Division. One matter that then distressed me was the extremely bad character of the work done in all Tamil schools; and I discovered that the cause of it was that the medium of instruction, Malayalam, was a language that the boys in those schools did not understand. And what I first of all took to be more or less due to the natural defects of the student population was subsequently found to be due to the fact that the students were being addressed daily in a language which they did not comprehend. I think it will be admitted that, as a question of sound education, it is no good whatsoever in all these lower classes to have instruction given in a tongue which is not the mother-tongue. That was what I found in those days. I find the same difficulty existing at the present time in Trivandrum. In the Model School in Trivandrum there are certain classes in which, on account of the very small proportion of Tamil boys, instruction is imparted entirely in Malayalam for both the Tamil-speaking and Malayalam-speaking boys. The result is that the

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

Tmil boys invariably suffer a great deal unless, by accident, a sufficiently large number of Tamil boys come in and it is possible to open a Tamil section for the Tamil-knowing pupils. Even now sufficient difficulties have arisen, because when occasionally, teachers who do not know any language except Malayalam, are transferred, and when they are asked to teach these classes, naturally they have of necessity to speak in Malayalam.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does Mr. Aiyangar know that teachers who do not—

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I request Mr. Madhava Variar to refer to me by my name as Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar and not as 'Mr. Aiyangar'? If he finds "Mr. Rangaswamy Aiyangar" too long, I have no objection to his referring to me even as "Mr. Rangaswami" since I have always experienced courteous treatment from him in the debates. 'Aiyangar' is a title. There are thousands of Aiyangars.

May I now have Mr. Madhava Variar's question?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Does Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar know that teachers who do not know Malayalam are sometimes transferred to Malayalam schools?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I am aware of it, Sir, and I may say I disapprove of it.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does Mr. Rangaswami know whether Inspectors and Inspectresses who do not know Malayalam are appointed?

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I know people are appointed. Mr Raman Pillai in this instance has an advantage over me, as in many other respects, in not merely knowing things that I do not know, but also things that are contrary to my knowledge.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to know whether there are not many Jews in England and still education is carried on there in the English language.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I do not know anything with regard to conditions in England. I am merely talking of things which have come under my personal notice as an educational officer, and I will be failing in my duty if I do not submit to the House a bit of my experience. It is hardly good keeping primary schools, where instruction is imparted in the mother tongue and at the same time call the attention of the people to the fact that it is not their mother tongue. I know that in certain places we are in the border line and unable to distinguish which is the mother tongue, as Mr. Velu Pillai

pointed out; and this would necessitate the teaching of them in a common language which they do not comprehend. The result of this has been two-fold. Tamilians get transferred to South Travancore; and they do not possess a sufficient knowledge of Malayalam. They speak in a language which is alien to Malayalam and their students are obliged to learn from them in a language which is supposed to be Malayalam. It is a case of complex ignorance that we get altogether—people speaking in a language which is supposed to be Malayalam, and students who do not know Malayalam learning in a language which is supposed to be Malayalam. I think the only way in which the thing can be solved is to provide not only for a knowledge of Tamil as essential for the teaching of Tamil students in their mother-tongue but at the same time to provide for the learning of a bilingual character. It is only in that manner that the difficulty is likely to be solved. In Trivandrum and other places to which I made reference, facilities for this do not exist. People still continue to be taught Malayalam, and they do not have the opportunity of learning Malayalam as a second language which would be possible when provision would be made for the Malayalam schools being converted into Tamil schools.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I thought Mr. Rangaswami would tell us something about the old expression he used regarding——

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I request that in referring to me, Mr. Raman Pillai will give my full name, as "Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar," and not call me "Mr. Rangaswami."

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why should I not call him Mr. Rangaswami? He just now gave permission to the House to do so.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): No, Sir, that is not so. I said I had no objection to Mr. Madhava Variar referring to me by my name only if he preferred to do so. Mr. Madhava Variar is always courteous, and when I said so, he was good enough to refer to me as "Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar." The permission given to Mr. Madhava Variar is not to the whole House. I must now object to being referred to simply as "Mr. Rangaswami" by Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I shall continue to refer to him as "Mr. Rangaswami."

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): I must object, if he does so; it will not be good manners to persist, after my objection.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I strongly protest against this kind of talk by Professor Rangaswami Aiyangar. I thought, when he told Mr. Madhava Variar how he should be personally addressed, that it is a permission given to all the members

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

of the Council. For him to say that I do not know good manners is simply cheek and nonsense.

PRESIDENT: Order, please, order.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): He is taking advantage of the position he holds under the Government.

PRESIDENT: I must call you to order. I do not think you are right in referring to his position under the Government.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Now he has got up and chastised me almost for not addressing him as an Aiyangar; since he explained that it was a mere title, I thought I might as well not use it. You will remember, Sir, that in my last question when I addressed him in that way he accepted it. Now for him to say that it is bad manners is cheek, and unless I am in this Council I know what to ask for that. I do not want to say that in the Legislative Council. I know how he was behaving in the classes. Since I am in the Council I do not want to say anything more. I have absolutely no objection to such a behaviour to his students. What do I care? It makes absolutely no difference to me. But he was chastising me from the other side!

PRESIDENT: Let this incident close. Will you please proceed with the subject, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I am extremely sorry for the incident. I think the ruling of the Chair is that we should address members as "Mr." Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar, I thought, would refer to his old theory, on which he was very eloquent in this House about the tyrannising of the minority over the majority. We had too much of it during the last session when the Professor was growing eloquent on this kind of tyranny, and he was quoting instances from Greece, Egypt, Belgium and other parts of the world.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMY AIYANGAR (*Professor of History and Economics*): Sir, I rise to speak a word of personal explanation. I did not refer to Belgium, Greece and other places. It is absolutely untrue.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): It may be that my memory is failing me. But I too know a bit of foreign history. Now I am surprised to find that when it comes to the question of one's own language such theories are quietly shelved. I am not much of a history student.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR: (*Professor of History and Economics*): May I ask, Sir, how my position is inconsistent? I have not asked now for the tyrannising of the minority over the majority. How does he justify his position? I have not referred to the tyrannising of the minority over the majority in this particular case; I have not done any such thing at all.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not think it is consistent with my dignity to answer his question, and I refuse to answer.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. The motion before the House relates to a discussion on the subject; and I do not know if gentlemen in the House are justified in answering accusations against each other.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I know a bit of Indian History too. Sir, at one time when this country extended beyond the Ghauts, a portion of the Tamil districts formed part of it. It was the Nair blood that was split in conquering those places. And owing to the friendly alliance with the Tamil kings, much of that territory was given back. It is by this accident that we have a great mixture of Tamil in this country. You know, Sir, that our Sovereign's mother-tongue is Malayalam, and the official language, as Mr. Hodgson calls it, is Malayalam.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Does the member know that our Sovereigns know Tamil also?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not care. The official language, as I said, is Malayalam. And the Tamilians and Malayalees were moving on friendly terms. We know that many of our Dewans have been Tamilians. This idea of conversion never occurred to the Tamilians who were living in this country and they never felt the difficulty. Nobody said that Tamil is not a rich language. Tayumanavar's writings are in Tamil; all the philosophy and religion—everything is in Tamil. Malayalam is nothing when compared to Tamil. Can anybody deny that Tamil is not a rich language? Is not, in point of science, German a richer language than other European languages; or Sanskrit richer than any other language in India? Is that a ground for us to urge that Sanskrit should be made the medium of study? These are all beside the point. Mr. Hodgson was telling us that the cost would be small; and he also gave the House an indirect warning that this is bound to go on increasing, as we begin to convert more and more Malayalam schools into Tamil ones. Mr. Lakshmana Pillai was asking me whether His Highness the Maha Raja knows Tamil. I say that all persons must know Tamil. I myself have bought a book and am studying Tamil so that I may know the philosophy and things of that kind contained in that language. We have been very tolerant; we have never raised any distinction between these two languages. No doubt, there had been little murmurings on account of the distribution of the official loaves and fishes. But my contention is that the extension of this principle will lead not only to practical difficulties but is sure to widen the cleavage between Malayalam and Tamil. It will sharpen the distinction, and eventually we may come to the position of segregating all Tamilians from the Malayalees, just as Kemal Pasha had to give up all his places by—

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Are the Welsh separated from the English, because the Welsh language is different?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not care about the Welsh.

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I think Mr. Raman Pillai is on the whole in favour of the policy which is being pursued with regard to the conversion of Malayalam into Tamil schools. But he was very anxious that this should not be carried too far. I might say, Sir, that the inspecting officers are very careful in this matter. Before converting a school or a class in Malayalam into Tamil, they make sure that the percentage of Tamil-speaking pupils is preponderatingly large. In fact, I think that the proportion agreed upon was that it should be two to one.

Mr. Hoogewerf is against this policy, I believe, largely because he fears that it might lead to the Tamil-speaking officials being posted in north Travancore, where the language is Malayalam; this may create difficulties. Now this is the very thing that I was told over and over again in the Tamil taluks when I was there, *viz.*, that the effect of Malayalam being taught in the schools is that only Malayalam officials are posted in Tamil taluks. They have Malayalam officials, Malayalam Inspectors of schools, Malayalam Tahsildars, Malayalam Policemen, and Malayalam Excise people in Shencottah—a taluk whose spoken language is foreign to these people. And it causes very great difficulty. They themselves urged that Tamil should be taught very widely so that the officers posted there might be Tamil-knowing and this difficulty might be removed.

Mr. Velu Pillai fears that this is going to be a large and costly business and that it will lead to difficulties. He mentioned that in Kalkulam and Vilavankod the question was a complicated one; and indeed, in the case of Vilavankod I found that it was extremely complicated. When I was at Martandam in south Travancore, it was very difficult for me to discover whether Malayalam or Tamil was the predominant language. What I found was that neither Tamil nor Malayalam was the predominant language, and what the majority of the people spoke was a mixture of the two, a kind of patois. In such places it is very difficult to know what language should be made predominant, so much so that in the case of Vilavankod, the Government order itself lays down that the people should be consulted in every instance, whether they wish their pupils to be taught in Tamil or in Malayalam.

Mr. Velu Pillai also explained that there are a good many Tamil-speaking people in Trivandrum and in other large towns and he feared that, when we are embarking upon this policy of permitting Tamil education we should be incurring a large expenditure for establishing Tamil schools in these towns. That was also considered when we began this business and the Government declared—it is not in the G. O. under consideration but in another—that if the local people in towns like Trivandrum, Quilon or Alleppey, where there are a large number Tamil-speaking people, wanted Tamil schools, there was nothing to prevent them starting private Tamil schools with Tamil as the medium of instruction and such schools, along with others, would receive a grant-in-aid.

Mr. Raman Pillai fears that the cost may grow from year to year, and he refers to me as having said that this is the case. I very carefully said, Sir, that for a time the cost of carrying on this policy would increase, but there is a limit to this. There are only half a dozen taluks which have Tamil schools, and it would not take very long, and it would not cost very much to convert all of them—all those thought necessary—from Malayalam into Tamil schools. I said that, for the present, it cost very little; because, for converting the I or the II classes, the Malayalam class teacher is found, in some cases, to know sufficient Tamil to teach these classes. When we come to the higher classes, it will be necessary to get purely Tamil teachers, and the cost, for a time, will increase. As I said, it is only for a time, because the area over which this is being done is very limited. I would therefore ask Mr. Raman Pillai not to press his motion. I think we are doing what is the right thing in teaching, as far as possible, the pupils of south Travancore through their mother tongue. I think most people will agree that it is easier to learn if the pupil is taught in his mother tongue than through a foreign language. We are being told every day that the education even in colleges should be imparted in the Vernacular. Consistent with that, the education of the Tamil-speaking pupils should be conducted in Tamil.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion to a division, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I would ask the President to pass a ruling whether Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar was right in saying that I had no good manners. Till then, I decline to take any part in the proceedings of this House. No doubt, he is a Rao Bahadur drawing a good salary in the College and I am an ordinary High Court pleader. But I must point out to you that, in the matter of self-respect, it has yet to be seen who values it more. And so far as the status in this Council is concerned, I hold as good a status as Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar. And though he was teaching me once, we now possess only one vote each and I think you would kindly hold the balance. So far as my conduct in this Council is concerned, I am sure, not a single member of this Council has any reason to complain that I had been ever discourteous to him or that I had given any room for complaint. I thought that I was giving satisfaction to all concerned. The incident that led up to this scene is also fresh in your mind, and therefore, I do not wish to plead for my case; but I submit, as a gentleman, Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar ought to withdraw the expression he used.

PRESIDENT: I thought the incident was closed. But, as you have referred to it, I would tell you that the tone in which you mentioned his name more than once was not the right sort of tone and that provoked Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar into saying words which I must regard as unnecessary and unhappy, and they were the cause of your using language which led to my intervention. I thought both of you would forget the incident. I trust the incident will now close and it will not be re-opened.

[MR. P. K. Narayana Pillai]

Now I would request you to say whether you press the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): No, Sir, I do not press.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 293 to 298.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

293. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for conversion of Malayalam into Tamil schools.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

294. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,03,824 for Vernacular High and Middle Schools for girls by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

295. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,500 for Special School for Malayala Brahmins by Rs 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

296. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,685 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

297. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 385 for office expenses by Rs. 50.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

298. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for travelling allowance to members by Rs. 500.

Motion 299.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to make the following motion:

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,52,250 for grants-in-aid to schools by Rs. 50,000.

Sir, I feel that in making this motion, I am on pretty delicate ground, for, there are communities which now have the benefit of the fee concessions made by Government, and there are also communities which have not got any concession in that respect. The necessity for amicability among the different communities in the land is appreciated by me more than by anybody else. But occasionally, when such questions come up before the Council, one is tempted to imagine that the different communities hold themselves in readiness to misunderstand each other, as if they are maintaining a position of armed neutrality liable to be disturbed at the slightest stir. I would preface, in making this motion, that nothing is farther from my mind than to aim the motion as having been directed against any particular community at all. I wish the Council should consider the matter in a philosophic, say just in an abstract spirit, detached from all the communities benefited or not benefited by the fee concessions ordered by the Government.

Referring to the history of this question of fee concessions, I see from the proceedings of the 17th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the Kammalars have agitated for it; the Sambavars have agitated for it; and the Chalias also have been for it in

that year. Coming to the 18th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, we see that the report of the proceedings contains echoes of what is now known as the students' strike, originating in an enhancement of the school fees, demanded from the students studying in the English schools. Page 156 of the report of the 18th session may be referred to in this connection as showing the arguments of Mr. Padmanabha Pillai pressing the Government to reconsider the question of the enhancement of school fees which were attempted to be collected from the various sections of the different communities in the land without any distinction. Government said, in that connection, that they could not go back upon the principle and in view especially of the heavy burdens undertaken by Government in the matter of English education, as particularly pointed out by communiques and replies, to deputation that the enhanced school fees would have necessarily to be paid. In the same report, on page 162, we see that the Gaudasarasvata community, living in Travancore, pressed for half-fee concession with respect to their own community. Then the Government pointed out that they were not numerically strong and they were not entitled to any fee concession. Coming to the 19th session, we see certain further agitations in this respect. I may draw the attention of the House to the report of the 19th session, on page 183, where there is an adumbration of principle in this respect by the Government. Replying to the request of the Nadar community, Government pointed out that half-fee concession with respect to English education had been conceded in their favour, but in regard to Vernacular education, the Government would not easily concede their request, and ultimately it was pointed out that they were not a poor community.

With respect to this question of educational concession, I notice, Sir, further, from Government pronouncements that the various communities have been classified into two or three groups. First of all, we have got the depressed class and then we have got the backward class which itself is sub-divided; as backward in respect of Vernacular education and backward with respect to English education. These various classifications have been made for facilitating the grant of fee concessions. Now, that there is heart-burning in certain communities with respect to the question of half-fee concession, is very clear from what I have already referred to. The unevenness of the measure has been prominently brought to light quite recently, by the concession in favour of the Ezhava community. Let it not be understood that I envy the concession granted in favour of the Ezhava community. Far from it. If there is a possibility of advancing the interests of the Ezhava community in any right and fair method, I have absolutely nothing to say. But we have to go to the principle underlying the fee concession. For my part, I would say that the whole question received the serious attention of a committee appointed by Government including members selected by this House, I mean, the Scholarships Committee. In the discussions of that committee, and in the report of that committee, it has been practically agreed to by officials and non-officials that the encouragement of the State in the matter of education should be based upon two

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

considerations *viz.*, the poverty of the recipient as well as his deserving nature. Since we dealt with the question of scholarship in that committee, the question of the merit of the recipient had necessarily to be emphasised. But, in the matter of fee concession I would point out that it is the question of poverty that preponderates and the question of merit plays only a subordinate part. When you concede in favour of any particular student anything in the matter of his fee, necessarily it must proceed upon the inability of the student to make the payment. I also draw the attention of the Government with respect to what has been said of the Nadar community where the Government emphasised the question of poverty. Viewed in that light, I beg to submit that it is extremely difficult to find out the principle underlying the fee concessions made to the various communities in the State. For example, begging not to be misunderstood, I would draw the attention of the House to the Ezhava community itself. Can it be said that, there are not very many wealthy men in the Ezhava community? It is a very great and important community—a community which is coming forward year after year in the matter of material welfare and prosperity. With respect to that community, it may be seen that, in the 17th session of the Popular Assembly, representatives of that community never made any request in the matter of fee concession. It was at the 18th turn that my friend Mr. Kumaran Asan and others thought they would make a claim in the matter of fee concession. We had an echo of that representation during the general discussion of the budget in the speech of Mr. Kumaran, that it was not, because of any general pecuniary inability looking at the present situation, that they called for assistance, but as a matter of reparation as an atonement for the past sins of Government in the matter of educational policy towards them. If that is the view to be taken as a ground for supporting the concession, I would submit that some of the other communities would also request the Government to re-open accounts which are regarded as already settled. So far as English education is concerned, I distinctly remember that, while I was a student in the Alleppey High School, which Mr. Hodgson mentioned as having been abolished during the time of Dr. Mitchell, about the year 1070, there were, in that institution, teachers, as well as many students, belonging to the Ezhava community. Can it be contended that the Ezhavas were purposely shut out so long ago as that? So, on that principle, it is very difficult to advocate the grant of fee concession. Therefore, we want an intelligible principle to go upon. Poverty is not communal. All members of any particular community are not of the poverty-stricken variety. If at all, there may be the Pulaya community and the Paraya community of the depressed class variety, in whose case we see there is a kind of relative poverty as compared with other communities. In such cases, probably, we may start with a presumption in favour of communal poverty. But, to say that other communities like the Nadars, Ezhavas and others, are to be taken *prima facie* as entirely poor, is

to presume things without foundation. There are a number of poor people in my own community—a community in which what is known as the *tarwad* system operates. Obviously the junior members may be taken to be as poor as church mice. Other communities, viewed in such light, may appear to be poor. In the light of these observations and also in view of the fact that it is the individual and individual *alone* that now tells, so far as administration is concerned—for example, for a breach of the ordinary law it is not the community that is punished but it is the individual—in view of all this I would submit that this question deserves closer scrutiny and some intelligible principle will have to be evolved out of the various rulings and observations of Government on which the fee concessions may be based. My submission is that poor students in every community, keeping apart the question of depressed classes alone, are entitled to the fee concessions so graciously offered by the Government. Of course, there is considerable difficulty in the matter of selecting the students. While we were on the Scholarships Committee we experienced similar difficulty. No doubt, it is extremely difficult to define poverty. Yet poverty is a well-understood thing. An agency will have to be created by Government for the purpose of selecting students for scholarships and concessions. On the other hand, if the Government do not propose to employ an agency of that description and to base the question of fee concession and scholarship upon an intelligent principle, your desire, as mentioned on the occasion of the 19th session of the Popular Assembly:

> "That the object of Government should be to bring all communities together and promote a spirit of union for the common good; and communal representation militates against such an attempt:"

will hardly be carried out. Rightly or wrongly, it is quite possible that a concession to one community will be misunderstood by other communities and there is just cause also for the same. So, in view of these troubles, I would submit that Government should be so good as to lay down the policy that poverty alone is the guiding principle irrespective of the recipient belonging to any particular community in the Sate. No doubt, as I submitted, in the case of the depressed classes the position of the Government is quite correct. I would only point out that the position taken at the general budget discussion by Mr. Kumaran, who unfortunately is not here now, when he observed that all fair-minded men would agree to the concession in favour of the Ezhava community, implied thereby that some of us are not fair-minded men. It is a very hard statement. For, fair-mindedness has its roots in equality and equity; when any particular concession appears to be iniquitous, the party pleading for that particular concession is the party who may be held open to the charge of unfairness. With these observations I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the motion before the House brought forward by Mr. Nârayana Pillai is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,52,250 for grants-in-aid to schools by Rs. 50,000. Literally his proposal is to reduce the grant. The actual

[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

proposal is that reconsideration should be made with regard to a certain order promulgating fee concessions to certain sections of the people of Travancore. Mr. Narayana Pillai has mentioned to us that in various sessions of the Popular Assembly, representations were made from time to time by different communities for concessions in school fees. I might say that, for a long time now, the Government and the Department have been considering how it will be best possible to make concessions so as to help the communities that are backward and in need of such help. It is a very old story that certain communities were given such concessions and I may refer to rule 126 (c) of the Education Code. It says:

"The rates of fees for Mahomedan, Pulaya, Pariah, Jewish, Kurava, Vala, Marava, Kaniar, Kakkala, Araya, Barber and Patiyan students in all departmental institutions shall be half of those prescribed for ordinary students.".

This rule was in the original issue of the Code in Dr. Mitchell's time but the number of the communities benefiting by it has been added to from time to time. Mr. Narayana Pillai has referred to the Scholarships Committee of which he was a member, and has reminded us that the report of the committee recommended that the scholarships should be awarded primarily on the basis of poverty combined with intelligence.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know what meaning attaches to the word community?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): I mean class of the community. I think that is fairly known to the member.

The Scholarships Committee were not as unanimous as Mr. Narayana Pillai remarked, because while he himself was in favour of the assignment of scholarships to pupils mainly on the basis of poverty, he, in his minute of dissent, pointed out that there were very great difficulties felt by the committee whose report he said was incomplete and half-baked in regard to the principle of determining poverty.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I remind him that, on the general principle, there was practical agreement? Only on the question of determining poverty, there was some divergence.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): There was one member, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai, who was opposed to the award of scholarships on the question of poverty only. With regard to fee concessions there is a certain distinction. But, fundamentally they are the same thing, because both of them concede something by way of money as given to the students to pursue their studies. In the case of scholarships greater merit is required. They are never given unless on evidence of decided merit. I disagree altogether with Mr. Narayana Pillai, when he thinks that fee concessions should be given simply and solely because the pupils are poor even if they are stupid. We do not want to give assistance to dullards to go to the schools.

Then, Mr. Narayana Pillai alludes to the economic condition of the various communities who are benefited by these concessions. I said the other day that, with certain individual exceptions, the communities are generally believed to be poor. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar in his speech mentioned the anomalous case in which the son of a High Court Judge had to pay only half-fee, whereas his peon had to pay full fee for his son. Sir, when I was Headmaster of the Breeks Memorial School at Ootacamund, I had studying there the grand-son of that very rich man Mr. A. R. Hajee Fakir Mahomed. He was a very wealthy man. His grandson came to school in a carriage-and-pair whereas I had to go on a cycle or walking. Well, his grand-son paid only half fees amounting to twelve annas. Subsequently when the half-fee concession was at my instance withdrawn from the Muhammadans of Ootacamund, the boy's father Mr. Jaffir Muhammad wrote to me and complained that he had to pay as school fees for his son Re. 1-8 which was a very large sum. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Narayana Pillai has suggested that the question of these fee concessions should be reconsidered again. I believe that the Government are quite willing and prepared to go into the question and remodel it, basing it more on the ground of poverty combined with the question of literacy and ability than upon other grounds. I take it that that will be done, but it cannot be very well done for the current year. For the current year we have undertaken to reimburse the private schools to the amount of about Rs. 50,000. It is a reimbursement to the private schools to save them from loss of income by granting these fee concessions to the various communities. I might say that when the concessions were put into force we found that it would be a hardship to many private schools who either have to sacrifice half the fees or to stand the loss of their pupils.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Would it encourage self-reliance on the part of private institutions?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): It is rather hard to encourage self-reliance at the sacrifice of a large part of their income! And consequently, after having various representations from private schools and feeling that it was really very hard on them, and also feeling that it would be very difficult to accommodate all these boys and girls from private schools in departmental schools, we decided to reimburse the managers for the loss of income caused by these concessions.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Has any private school manager informed Mr. Hodgson that he would close his school if this grant is not made?

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): They have told me that they would have to close schools. Commissioner Blowers of the Salvation Army, and the Rev. Mr. Edmonds of the London Mission, both told me the same thing. We have consented to reimburse them. That is the reason why this Rs. 50,000 budgeted for is necessary, and I would ask the Council to allow it on the

[MR. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

understanding that the Government are prepared to consider over again the whole question of fee concessions in schools.

PRESIDENT: The time for the discussion of this demand has expired.

In the light of what Mr. Hodgson has said, do you press your motion, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I accept the assurance and on the strength of the assurance, I do not want the motion to be put to vote.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 300 to 311.

The following motions lapsed, the time allotted for the demand having expired:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

300. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,52,250 for grants-in-aid to schools by Rs. 50,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

301. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,52,250 for grants-in-aid to schools by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

302. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,400 for sale of MacMillan Readers by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

303. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,44,168 for Miscellaneous by Rs. 10.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

304. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 1,00,000.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

305. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 80,000.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

306. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 1,000.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

307. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 1,000.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

308. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

309. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

310. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

311. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs 5.

The question that Government be granted Rs. 32·35 lakhs under Demand XII – Education was then put and carried.

The House adjourned at 5-34 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 on Monday morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, the 13th August, 1923.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven-thirty of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Statistics of Appointments.

154. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a caste-war statement of the percentages of appointments in the different departments based on the percentage of literates to the whole population?

(*b*) If the information about all departments is too difficult to tabulate, will the Government be pleased to give such a statement at least in respect of the Sanitary Department, as before and after 1095?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Government do not propose to collect the information, as in their opinion the time and labour involved is out of proportion to its utility.

(*b*) A statement* containing the information is laid on the table.

Christians in Service.

155. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any representation has been received from the Christians of Neyyattinkara to the effect that the members of their

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* *Vide* Appendix—page 678.

[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

community who are qualified to enter Government service are not entertained in the service, in spite of repeated applications to the educational authorities; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in regard to the representation made at the last session of the Popular Assembly by Mr. S. M. Fernando, nominated member, on the above subject?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) No special steps are called for.

Disafforestation of Reserves.

156. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of acres of arable lands included in the various reserved forests with the names of the taluks in which they are situated, which have hitherto been proposed to be registered by the several Disafforestation Committees?

(b) Have the Government appointed any such committee for the taluks north of Kottayam?

(c) Are the Government aware that there are many plots of land in the hills of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and Kunnatnad which, though fit for cultivation, are now included in the reserves?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to appoint immediately such committees for these taluks also?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(a) Only the reports of two committees, *viz.*, those for the Devicolam and Peermade taluks, have so far been received by the Government and they are under consideration. Particulars of the areas suggested by the committees for disafforestation are given below:—

Name of Taluk.	*Name of reserve.*	*Approximate area proposed to be disafforested.* *Acres.*
1. Devicolam	Cardamom Hills Reserve.	1,150
2. Peermade	Do.	790
3. Do.	Periyar Lake Reserve	210

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) A G. O. is under issue for the constitution of committees for the taluks of Kunnatnad, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha.

Registry of Pandupara Palapalli.

157. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*):

(*a*) Do the Government, in accordance with their original decision, propose to auction immediately, in small blocks, the swampy area known as *Pandupara Palapalli* in the Manjapra *pakuthi* of the Kunnatnad taluk, which was disafforested from the Reserves a few years ago?

(*b*) Do the Government know that, if this is done, it will bring in a large revenue to the State?

(*c*) Did not the people, on a former occasion, clear the jungles in the said area for paddy cultivation and did not the Forest Department object to it at that time?

(*d*) Do the Government know whether anybody has now begun paddy cultivation within the said area?

(*e*) If so, has the Forest or the Revenue Department objected to it, as on the former occasion?

(*f*) Is it in disregard of the objections of these departments that the land is now being cultivated?

(*g*) If so, what action have the Forest or the Revenue officers taken in the matter?

(*h*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any preliminary steps are in progress for registering this area in extensive blocks?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government do not propose to auction immediately in small blocks the swampy lands known as *Pandupara Palapalli* disafforested from the Malayattur Reserve. As these lands are likely to be commanded by the Adirapalli irrigation scheme under contemplation, Government have decided that these lands should not be assigned till that scheme is finally settled.

(*b*) Government are aware that some revenue can be realised if the lands are sold in auction immediately. But they consider it desirable to wait until the Adirapalli scheme matures.

(*c*) Government have no information about this.

(*d*) to (*g*) The Conservator of Forests has reported to Government that attempts are being made by some people from Manjapra to enter on and cultivate the lands. The Forest Department has objected to such encroachments. On the Conservator's report, Government have issued orders to the Land Revenue Commissioner to arrange for the unauthorised entry being prevented and the defaulters being brought to book.

(*h*) The answer is in the negative.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Catholic Sub-Registrars.

158. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many Sub-Registrars belong to the Catholic community?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Among the seventeen Christian Sub-Registrars one belongs to the Catholic community.

Employees in the Co-operative Department.

159. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of officers in the Co-operative Department who draw a pay of Rs. 25 and above and who belong to the Brahmin, Nair and Christian communities respectively?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information required by the member is given below:—

		Brahmins.	*Nairs.*	*Christians.*
Permanent staff	...	5	7	1
Acting staff	...	2	...	...
Temporary staff	...	1	...	...

Employees in the Police Department.

160. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state the percentages of caste Hindus, Christians, Ezhavas and Mahomedans in the Police Department?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The percentages are as given below:—

Caste Hindus	...	79·23
Ezhavas	...	3·8
Christians	...	7·0
Mahomedans	...	1·23
Other castes	...	8·74

Catholic Inspectors of Schools.

161. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any Roman Catholic among the inspectors of Vernacular or English schools?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Representation of Northern Taluks in Service.

162. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Are the Government aware of the fact that the number of employees in the service from among the inhabitants of the Minachil, Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha taluks is very small as compared with other taluks?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information. No talukwar statistics of appointments are prepared.

Representation in Service.

163. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate giving priority in the matter of appointments to applicants from communities insufficiently represented in the service, in proportion to their population and education and from those who inhabit the interior taluks of north Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member's attention is invited to the Dewan's replies to the representations of Mr. N. Kumaran Asan and Mr. P. J. Kurien at the nineteenth session of the Assembly. (*Vide* pages 186 and 193 of the Proceedings.)

Disposal of Petitions.

164. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Are the Government aware of the fact that when petitions relating to matters of public interest are sent to the officers of Government either by the public or their representatives, with a request for reply, some of them do not send any reply at all?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay down a rule making it obligatory on the officers to give endorsements on such petitions within a fixed time?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Instructions will be issued that all signed petitions presented to the proper authority should be answered as promptly as possible.

Free Supply of Books to Pupils of Depressed classes.

165. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the depressed classes such as Pulayas and Parayas have not, owing to their poverty, made sufficient advancement in education, in spite of the fact that they are admitted into schools and given fee concessions?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to encourage the children belonging to these classes, by giving them, free of cost, the text-books required during the period of their primary education?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) Government consider that this is not necessary in view of the fact that there is only one text-book for each of the primary classes.

Village Roads in Muvattupuzha.

166. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Has the usual grant allotted for the maintenance of village roads in the Muvattupuzha taluk been spent this year also?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

(*b*) What village roads and cartable roads in that taluk are being left this year without the usual maintenance grant being expended on them?

(*c*) Has the Sub-divisional Officer diverted any amount from the maintenance grant for the village roads and cartable roads in the taluk, for any other works?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes; as far as possible.

(*b*) Some minor roads were proposed by the Executive Engineer to be left out, but this has not been approved of by the Chief Engineer.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Arur-Arakkuzha Road.

167. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): In view of the fact that it is very difficult to take vehicles along the Main Central Road between Kuttattukulam and Muvattupuzha on account of the obstacle caused by the Arur ridge, will the Government be pleased to extend by two miles the road opened by the people through the level country to the east of that ridge along the Arakkuzha village, and connect it with the Kuttattukulam road?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the affirmative. There is a provision of Rs. 8,000 in the draft budget for 1099 for improving the *ghat* portions of the Main Central Road between Kozha and Muvattupuzha.

Admission to Schools and Transfer Certificates.

168. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*):

(*a*) Have the Government had occasion to know that people are generally undergoing great difficulties in the matter of getting students admitted into the schools and for getting their transfer certificates from them?

(*b*) If so, will the Government make the necessary arrangements at once to remove the difficulties of the people in this matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

Leave availed of by the present Sanitary Commissioner.

169. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state on how many occasions and for what periods in each case the present Sanitary Commissioner has gone on leave since he resumed charge of the Sanitary Department?

(*b*) Was the leave sanctioned as per the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the special reasons for the deviation?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Sanitary Commissioner was on privilege leave on two occasions, in the first case for 6 days in continuation of the Christmas holidays and in the second for 2 months from the 16th Makaram, 1098.

(*b*) & (*c*) When Mr. Krishnamurti Aiyar applied for leave on the second occasion, two months had not elapsed since his last return from privilege leave, and he was not strictly eligible for leave under Article 182 of the Service Regulations. He, however, stated that his health had broken down on account of his arduous work in connection with the Census and that he needed leave urgently for rest and change. In these circumstances, privilege leave for one and a half months was granted from the 16th Makaram, 1098, as a special case. This was afterwards extended to two months.

Fee Concessions.

170. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether remission of full fees is allowed to all Christians who are converts from the depressed classes;

(*b*) whether the Muslims who are converts from depressed classes will be allowed the same privilege;

(*c*) whether this privilege is granted only to converts in this generation or to sons of converts also;

(*d*) whether Government have ascertained the educational conditions of the different classes among Christians;

(*e*) what the probable additional educational expenditure will be on account of remission of fees; and

(*f*) whether the Government are prepared to extend the same privilege to educationally backward persons in all communities?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The member is referred to G. O. Dis. No. 609 of 23/Leg. E. dated the 16th June, 1923.

(*b*) Yes, if there are any such and if they put forward the claim.

(*c*) To all Christian converts from the depressed classes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) About Rs. 85,000.

(*f*) The privilege cannot be extended to educationally backward persons in all communities.

Appendix.

Vide Answer to Question No. 154.

Caste-war statement of appointments in the Sanitary Department before and after 1095.

Caste.	Before 1095.		After 1095.	
	No. of appointments	Percentage on the total number of literates of the caste as per 1921 Census.	No. of appointments.	Percentage on the total number of literates of the caste as per 1921 Census.
Brahmins ...	43	0·14	40	0·13
Nairs ...	63	0·023	66	0·024
Ezhavas ...	,,	,,	1	0·0007
Vellalas ...	22	0·13	21	0·12
Other Hindus ...	4	0·003	5	0·004
Mahomedans ...	6	0·02	3	0·01
Christians ...	44	0·012	42	0·011

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XI—POLICE.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI—Police.

Motion 241.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

241. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,725 for establishment by Rs. 500.

Under this head, the number under establishment has remained as it was, *viz.*, 34, in the previous year. The lump sum now allotted under this head is Rs. 11,725. Certainly, this is an increased amount as compared with last year's. I don't see any reason for raising this item in the budget. So I would plead for a reduction of Rs. 500 in the budget.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Mr. President, from the 1st Chingam, 1098, all the clerks in my office and in other offices were put on incremental scales of pay and increments have to be paid from 1st Chingam, 1099, and the sum provided in the budget is required for that purpose. I therefore oppose the motion.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 242.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

242. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 15,000.

Sir, this item is a pretty large amount, *viz.*, Rs. 36,000. It was a smaller sum last year, *i. e.*, Rs. 16,302. This year it has been raised to Rs. 36,000, *i. e.*, causing an increase of Rs 20,000 in round numbers for equipment and clothing. The price for piece-goods has come down to its normal rate. This is one of the reasons I can suggest for a reduction in the budget.

PRESIDENT: There are two other motions in regard to this matter, one in the name of Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai (motion 243), and the other in the name of Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai (motion 244). Mr. Raman Pillai's motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 6,000 and that of Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai is to reduce the allotment by Rs. 500. May I know, Mr. Raman Pillai, whether you are going to move your motion as an independent motion, or whether you are going to speak now?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): In sending up this motion, my idea was to see whether any reduction is possible under this head.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has moved for the reduction. Perhaps you would like to speak on that motion.

[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then I don't move my motion.

PRESIDENT: I suppose your motion may be treated as identical with that of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir, it may be treated as an identical motion.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai, then yours?

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Torala*): Yes, Sir, it may also be treated as identical.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The greater part of the allotment is required for clothing and equipping the 161 head constables and 1,747 constables included under 18-B Police. The amount required on account of stores is very small. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai is, as we know, opposed to the ornamentation of departments, and it is therefore natural that he should have attacked police uniforms. There is nothing vague or indefinite about the cost of uniforms. A scale of clothing and equipment is prescribed and the period for which each article has to be kept in good order is laid down. The annual cost of clothing a unit of the force is calculated by taking the proportionate cost of each article. On this basis and at the prices at which the contracts for 1099 have been sold, subject to the provision of funds by this House, the cost of clothing and equipping the cheapest unit, that is to say, a constable serving in a station on the plains, is Rs. 14-13-6 per annum, and of the most expensive unit, *i. e.*, a head constable in a station on the hills, Rs. 30-9-12. This is at the 1099 prices. From the cost of clothing and equipping units, that of clothing and equipping the whole force can be obtained. At the present day prices—they are practically the same for 1098 and 1099—the cost of clothing the whole force is Rs. 31,559-1-5 per annum.

The scale itself, as pointed out by the Financial Secretary in his memorandum on the budget estimate, has been reduced and the figures I have now given are based of course on this reduced scale.

The expenditure for the two years 1098 and 1099 taken together, in accordance with the reduced scale, should amount to Rs. 63,118-2-10; but in point of fact, as I shall explain later on, I expect a saving of Rs. 18,000 in addition to the whole cost of stores purchased, which, however, is not a big item. I do not think this House intends to place me in the position next cold weather of having to tell the head constables and constables serving on the hills that no blankets can be issued, because the money for providing them has been taken away by the popular representatives, nor to have to tell the men at the plague observation stations on the Madura frontier that no boots can be provided for want of funds and that they must run the risk of being bitten by infected fleas. Nor do I think that the gentleman who represents the

Capital of this State would agree to having a Police Force clothed in rags.

With regard to the great difference in expenditure between the years 1098 and 1099, I would point out that it is on account of the fact—as Mr. Van Ross explained when talking on this subject in connection with his own department—that a double amount of clothing is purchased every other year. We issue boots and puttees every other year and it so happens that the double purchase of clothing has to be made in the same year as that in which boots and puttees are provided. So, the difference which always existed between the cost of clothing for any two successive years has been now accentuated. From the budget point of view this of course is not very satisfactory, but it is not very easy to alter it. The difference between the cost of clothing in any two years at to-day's prices is Rs. 16,000.

I said just now that the saving on the sanctioned scale for the two years 1098 and 1099, taken together, is estimated at Rs. 18,000. Of course there are always savings on the sanctioned scale. There will be vacancies in the constabulary. Constables who are on long leave are not given uniform during the period of such leave. Then again, if an article is still in good order, it is not replaced even when the prescribed period has elapsed. For all these reasons we always get a saving. The contracts for 1099 have been sold, subject as I said before, to the provision of funds by this House, since the budget estimate was prepared. I have therefore a fairly accurate idea as to what the cost of clothing and equipment in 1099 is going to be. The provision for 1098, as Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai pointed out, was Rs. 16,000. A sum of Rs. 3,000 out of it will lapse next Friday, *i. e.*, the end of the year, and for 1099, a sum of Rs. 36,000 has been provided, *i. e.*, Rs. 52,000 in two years. Deducting Rs. 3,000 that gives a balance of Rs. 49,000. I am prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 4,000 in order to make up the estimated saving of Rs. 18,000 on Rs. 63,118-2-10.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether the contract for the supply of equipment and clothing has been placed with the same firm during the past two or three years?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I cannot answer that question without looking up the papers, because we deal with some 20 contractors.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know whether these contractors are from British India or from England?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): We buy nothing from England. We have sold a small contract for Rs. 100 or so in Madras, and speaking from memory I can say that all the important contracts have been placed with Travancoreans living in Trivandrum.

PRESIDENT: The contract is sold by auction, I suppose?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, are you prepared to accept a cut of Rs. 4,000?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, are you also prepared to accept the cut?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chidambaratanu Pillai?

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Tovala*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the motion is withdrawn on the understanding that a cut of Rs. 4,000 is accepted.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 243 and 244.

The following motions were accordingly not moved:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

243. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 6,000.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

244. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 500.

Motions 245 and 246.

PRESIDENT: There are two motions, 245 and 246, to omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards. Both are identical. I would request Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai to move his motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

245. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards.

In going through the budget estimate, I find that the Police Department is not the only department that stands in need of stimulants in the shape of rewards, to rouse Government servants from the torpor brought about by the disgusting disbursement of mere routine pay. For example, provision is made in the budget to pay rewards in the Forest Department and in the Excise Department to vivify the operations of those departments. It may also be noticed in this connection that there is something like waywardness in the methods adopted and occasionally irreconcilability of the figures which, I fear, will defy the arithmetical sleights of hand of even the genial Financial Secretary. Taking the Forest Department, I see that the allotment for rewards is placed under two heads, one associated with the Conservator of Forests and the other with the D. F. O's. In 1095, I see, Sir, that Rs. 300 was budgeted on account of rewards to be paid by the Conservator of Forests.

PRESIDENT : That head is not under consideration now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I am only at the general policy underlying the grant of rewards. Out of Rs. 300 budgeted on account of rewards to be paid by the Conservator, the accounts show that he paid only Rs. 21. This parsimonious tendency on his part was detected by the Government with the result that in the years 1096 and 1097 nothing was provided for rewards to be paid by him. On the other hand with respect to Divisional Forest Officers, though the budget for 1097 did not provide anything to be paid by them on account of rewards, they seemed to have paid Rs. 32, and Government evidently thought that that was the quarter which stood in need of reinforcement in the matter of rewards and, in the year 1098, a sum of Rs. 200 seems to have been provided. A like sum is also provided for 1099. Coming to the Excise Department, the figures for 1096 show that the department spent Rs. 40 on account of rewards, and in 1097, they managed to spend Rs. 49. In 1098, they budgeted for Rs. 200 on account of rewards, and in 1099 we see there is a sudden rise in the demand for allotment under rewards, the figure budgeted being Rs. 1,000. Unfortunately this provision in the budget escaped my attention and I entertain some dim suspicion as to how it may be utilised, bearing in mind the strength which the temperance movement is aiming day by day.

Coming to the Police Department, we have got figures as regards the amounts provided on account of rewards to be paid by the Commissioner of Police and also the District Superintendents of Police. In the year 1095, the entire amount of rewards paid out by the Police Department, as may be seen from the Administration Report for 1096, was Rs. 805. In 1096, the Administration Report says that the entire amount spent was Rs. 1,185, which there is reason to question, by a reference to the last budget estimate presented to this House, for in the last budget estimate the Commissioner of Police is said to have spent Rs. 666 and the District Superintendents of Police on the whole spent Rs. 940. Coming to 1097, according to some sources that is, the Statistical Volume as well as the Administration Report, we have got on the whole Rs. 856 spent by the department on account of rewards. But referring to the budget estimate presented to this House it may be seen to be Rs. 857, *i. e.*, a difference of one rupee. I don't know how to explain it. Further, with respect to the recipients of these rewards also there are certain facts to be observed. In 1096, Rs. 615 was paid by way of rewards in a single case. Also, we notice that, out of the total sum spent, Rs. 1,185 was given to the police exclusively. In 1097, out of a total of Rs. 856 or Rs 857, Rs. 800 was paid to the police. Rs. 56 or Rs. 57 appears to have been paid to British officers and others. This is how the figures stand. I fail to see why the members of the police staff should be encouraged by the grant of rewards in the matter of detection or prevention or investigation of crime. If any particular constable or head constable, or, as I see occasionally, some Sub-Inspector, acquits himself honorably by

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

collecting information or preventing crime, he is legitimately entitled to promotion and not any reward on account of that fact. If, as a matter of fact, anybody is to be rewarded, it is, I presume, the people in general who supply information to the police with respect to the detection of crime. With respect to that aspect, you, Sir, seem to have set your face against the idea; for, referring to the proceedings of the 19th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly (page 27), in answer to the representation that private individuals should be allowed rewards for the detection of illicit tapping, you said as follows:

> Again, you have suggested that people should be given rewards for detecting cases of illicit tapping. There is a certain amount of danger in giving such rewards. It might give room to many false cases of illicit tapping being brought up against innocent persons. Nothing will be more easy for a man who has a spite against another than to bring up a false case of illicit tapping. The Departments of Excise and Police are doing their work under supervision and they have to conform to certain rules in the matter of detection of cases. They have to prepare a *mahazar* and get the testimony of two or three local people. These safeguards are necessary to protect innocent persons from malicious prosecutions. If this aspect of the question is considered, I expect you will agree that your suggestion is a dangerous one to adopt.

PRESIDENT: I have a word of personal explanation. That was an answer which had to be given on the spur of the moment to a representation made to me. What I meant to say was that we should not institute a system of rewards in every case sought to be detected. I did not mean that Government should forbid the grant of rewards in cases where after the case ends it is proved that the information given to the department concerned, whether it be the Police, the Excise or the Forest Department, brought us really valuable information which could be relied upon. That was my object. I did not mean to say that the policy was to forbid that sort of reward.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In view of the explanation that has just now been given I would urge that the reward that may be awarded by the Police Department should be confined exclusively to private individuals. With respect to the members of the police staff itself, it may be seen that they come in for an amount of tender treatment at the hands of Government. For example, we have had cases where, when Circle Inspectors and Inspectors used to be prosecuted by private agencies not for their individual share in official transactions but for the personal offence of defamation, Government have been deputing Sirkar Vakils to defend such police officers. In other cases, *i. e.*, in cases of defamation, in which policemen figure as complainants, Government have agreed that the cost incurred by them in the matter of prosecution will be paid out to them.

PRESIDENT: Do you say that the defamation did not relate to official duties?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The question of defamation has very little to do with departmental conduct of business. It is entirely personal.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May I ask whether Mr. Narayana Pillai is aware of a circular which says that

the reputation of the public servants is in the custody of the Government, and if there are attacks against them and if they successfully prosecute the persons concerned, their cost may be incurred by the Government. There is a circular to that effect which is printed in the Criminal Courts Guide.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha)*: I have a hazy notion of the existence of such a circular, but I would certainly object to the employment of Sirkar Vakils in all cases where the police figure as prosecutors and also as the accused are concerned. The circular itself can never be intended to cover the ordinary prosecutions against police officers for defamation but only to cases of prosecution by police officers. Further, I notice that, in cases of acquittal or discharge of police officers, Government are paying compensation to them in connection with the charges that they have had to meet in such prosecutions. So, it is department which has come in considerably for favourable treatment by Government, and to say that, in addition to the revision of salaries, the members of the police staff are entitled to reward, is clearly going too far in that direction. Further, here we notice the Commissioner demands. Rs. 500 on account of rewards to be given by him. Then the District Superintendents of Police have claimed another amount, say Rs. 1,200 or 1,500, in the budget by way of rewards to be paid out by them. All these cannot be said to have consistency. If, as a matter of fact, the main duties appertaining to the Police Department are to be carried out by the District Superintendents of Police, I fail to understand why the Commissioner should be given Rs. 500 by way of rewards to be paid by him. Similar policy has been discountenanced in the case of the Conservator of Forests. As I submitted a little while ago, the Conservator of Forests had a particular amount allotted to him, but that allotment seems to have been discontinued. The Excise Commissioner has nothing by way of rewards associated with his name in the budget. But the Assistant Excise Commissioners get a big amount under this head, *viz.*, Rs. 1,000. At least, for the sake of uniformity, this amount of Rs. 500 which is given to Mr. Pitt to be paid by way of rewards has to be cut. With these observations I beg to offer my motion for the consideration of this House.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The provision of Rs. 500 made under 18-A Police, is intended for the payment of reward to police officers and other persons living outside Travancore and it is placed with me because the amounts are drawn by me and remitted direct to those to whom rewards are granted. The provision made under 18—B Police is for payment of rewards to police officers and others living in Travancore. All rewards must be sanctioned either by the Government or by myself. But payment in the latter case is made by D. S. P's who draw the money on contingent bills. The amount which we are now discussing relates to 18 - A, *i. e.*, that which is intended solely for paying rewards to persons outside Travancore.

Reference was made to some disparity between the figures in the Administration Report and in the Statistics volume.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Was that with reference to the Police Department or the Excise Department?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It was with reference to the Police Department. I shall explain how the discrepancy may have come about. Private persons often present police officers with rewards and if acceptance is sanctioned we include those amounts too in the Administration Report as rewards paid. The figure given in the accounts relates only to the money provided by the Government. I think that it is a very small amount that we provide under rewards, and that there can be very little objection to it from the point of view of the tax-payer, because, as all police officers know, small rewards given now and then do a great deal to stimulate the detection and prevention of crimes. I do not think that, on financial grounds, there is any reason to deprive the department of the money provided. I do not think the other points raised by the member arise here.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, in view of the allotment made under 18-B, D. S. P's, which comes to Rs. 1,200 this year, I wish to press the motion and request the House to accept it. We have got already Rs. 1,200. That also must relate to investigation and detection and all that.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Pitt has already explained that one amount is for rewards to the people outside and the other relates to rewards to those in Travancore.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether our policemen get rewards from outside?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, sometimes. A reward was received from the Cochin State a few days ago, for saving life.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): If so, I would withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motion was not made:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

246. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for rewards.

Motion 247.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

247. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for upkeep of motor car by Rs. 1,000.

Since the car is a new one, I believe it may be possible to have it going on with this amount. I therefore move the motion for reducing the allotment.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, in this connection, I am under two agreements—one with the Travancore Government and the other with Mr. Kumara Pillai. The Government of Travancore has undertaken to pay the whole cost of upkeep of the car. Mr. Kumara Pillai extracted a promise from me at this time last year, that any amount spent over and above Rs. 1,800 would be met from my own pocket. The latter agreement lapses at 12 midnight on Thursday/Friday next. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai wants me to renew it, greatly to my disadvantage. Fortunately, under the agreement with Mr. Kumara Pillai, I lost only a few rupees. But I fear the car is getting older—it certainly is not getting newer—and therefore, next year it will be extremely difficult to maintain the car on a less amount.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether this allotment for upkeep of the car is drawn in a lump and expended at leisure?

PRESIDENT: He asks whether it is a compounded payment.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): The Account Officer scrutinises the bills.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 248.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

248. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,090 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

My object in sending this motion is to draw the attention of Government to one or two matters connected with the administration of the department. First, I would deal with the present system of recruitment of the Police Commissioner. I believe I suggested last year that it would be advisable to recruit the Commissioner himself direct, so that he may live here and earn his pension in the Travancore Service.

Then, regarding the recruitment of the D. S. P's. and A. S. P's., I submit, a considerable change can be introduced. During the time of Mr. Bensley, Magistrate-Munsiffs and even Tahsildars used to be drafted into the Police Department. After serving some time as D. S. P's., there was the practice also to send them out on promotion from the Police Department, so that there was greater cordiality between the officers of various departments and greater co-operation. Mr. George, when he reorganised the department, recruited graduates and appointed them direct as Sub-Inspectors. But, since then, we find the department has become quite an air-tight compartment. The head constable of Mr. Bensley became the Sub-Inspector of Mr. George and he again became the Circle Inspector of Mr. Cunningham and he is now the A. S. P. under Mr. Pitt. I submit, promotions to these

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

controlling places ought not to be regulated by mere seniority. As an instance, I will point out the capacity or the eligibility of one of the latest recruits to the post. In 1092, the Sessions Judge remarked as follows regarding the conduct and the investigation of a case:—

"The Circle Inspector's action in seizing the items of wooden furniture, etc., was wholly without warrant. Circle Inspector's explanation for seizing old medicinal bottles discloses no doubt admirable tactics but is of the *most abhorrent kind*. I find there was no actual search but that it was an arbitrary and high-handed looting of the house by the Police assisted by the Niranam men. I further hold that the search, if there were any, was illegal because it is not proved to have been witnessed by any of the respectable inhabitants of the locality".

"Circle Inspector's explanation is highly prevaricative. Before concluding the judgment, I feel constrained to say a word or two *re* the manner in which the case was handled by the police during investigation. The investigation was conducted in the wrong direction and on wrong lines. The Police have collected a large mass of evidence which is not only irrelevant to the charge but is also false in the main. The searches made by them are nothing short of thoughtless and gratuitous inroads into the houses of innocent men. They have made some false *mahazars* and created false evidence. There was also the *mahazar* and wrong detention of 1st accused in custody for a day after the termination of the period for which remand was obtained from the magistracy. The protective and preventive provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code have been grossly contravened; and the powers conferred on the police under Section 35 Criminal Procedure Code have been abused. The inevitable consequence was the sustenance of limitless annoyance and extreme privation by the accused, besides incurring of pecuniary loss, the reparation of which, by way of compensation, is not within the competency of this court."

After an interval of three years he repeated the same tactics and got the same remarks:

"........Curiously enough, all this was done before the case itself was entered in the Crime Register..............................That the search..........has been conducted in a most irregular and slipshod manner...
I am likewise unable to place any reliance on the deposition of D. W. 4 in the face of the clear admission contained in Mr. Govindan's statement.................... I have no doubt that the *thondi* articles Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 were not put into the well by any one of the accused but were foisted by the police."

Now we find that he is straightway promoted as an A. S. P. I submit that the post itself is not only unnecessary, but recruiting such men is certainly not to help the preservation of the life and liberty of the people.

Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is the necessity for reducing the cost of increase under establishment charges. I pointed out last year that it would be quite convenient and possible for the Commissioner to reduce at least half a dozen charging Stations, like Paravur, Aranmula, Pulinkunnu, Mundakayam, Vadasserikara and Kumili, and substitute outposts.

I submit similarly that it would be possible to reduce the number of Prosecuting Inspectors. I do not think their work is of a satisfactory nature. That is the result of the investigating officers and prosecuting Inspectors being of the same grade. They are all Inspectors. Naturally, the Prosecuting Inspector would feel some delicacy in pointing out the flaws of the investigation or other irregularity in the charge-sheeting of

a case. I would, therefore, point out that, if they are to be retained, they can with advantage be placed directly under the District Magistrates or the Head Sirkar Vakil, so that their diaries might go up to them, so that they might be independent of the police and will exercise their discretion in withdrawing cases or in opposing bail applications, etc. At present, the Prosecuting Inspectors are entirely at the mercy of the investigating officers. Then again I submit the C. I. D. in Travancore is unnecessary. We find the C. I. D. Inspector is given a clerk and a peon also. Well, since the nature of his work is that of detection, I submit he ought not to be given a clerk, for the simple reason that secrecy in the matter of investigation will be lost by having to get everything done by another. I also submit that the time has come when the day-beat system might be abolished and thereby a number of constables in the Stations reduced. In the good old days, the villagers were not safe. Constables were therefore deputed to visit them and report crimes. I am sure that during the past so many years no crime has been reported by these beat constables and it is also doubtful whether they really visit the villages or not.

It must be possible to reduce the clerical work in the offices of D. S. P's. As my friends pointed out, the work of the police is one of detection and prevention of crime. The D. S. P's have a host of clerks who have to do stores, contingencies and other work. All manner of unnecessary work is saddled upon them. In the time of Mr. Bensley there was only one common central store from which all the articles were sent out or the contractor went from station to station to see that the clothes really fit. Now it is just the reverse and whether the coats and trousers fit them or not they have to wear them with very funny results. (*Laughter.*) It was Mr. Cunningham who introduced these separate stores in 1093, with endless additional registers and so forth. I submit, in the days of Mr. Bensley there were only two clerks for each D. S. P. The junior clerk used to accompany the D. S. P. on tour and the practice of the D. S. P. on inspection of stations was to read the the crime register and that was the most important work. Stores, administration and all the rest of it must be removed from his control and taken back to the office of the Commissioner of Police. I have also to point out that, in that case, we will save money, not only in establishment charges, but in transport charges also.

We have the reserve men and there is very little occasion for employing them. I submit, as in the days of Mr. Bensley, they were doing smithery, tailoring, and other works, and even printing. They are now fed, drilled and kept. I submit that ought not to be. They must be asked to do some work.

Then regarding the A. S. P's. I submit it must be possible to abolish these posts. In any case, according to the present arrangement for work, they are useless, having no definite work. No doubt, in each district, one is a personal assistant in the office, and passes some orders. In some cases, where there is a rub between the two officers, contradictory orders are issued. We find the stations are not inspected as freely

[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

and as often as they used to be; and that ought not to be the case. They do not care to do field work, as I told Mr. Pitt the other day. The Commissioner himself was making a series of surprise inspections when he found that the sentries were sleeping, the treasury guards did not challenge him and the head constables were at home. All these betray the sad state of indiscipline due to improper inspections. We find the D. S. P's. never move an inch. They have got two assistants and they take things leisurely. At any rate, one-half of their number can be safely and conveniently abolished and the rest given some definite work. For example, they may be asked to investigate cases of a certain magnitude such as those involving property of the value of Rs. 3,000 or more, all murder cases and so forth. They may also be insisted on to inspect the stations once every three months.

And then I have also to point out to the House the miserable condition in which the lock-ups are maintained and the inconvenience which the under-trial prisoners are put to. I understand some special steps are being taken and I find some ventilators are put up in some lock-ups. But the question must be seriously taken in hand. I submit that every accused in the eye of the law is, till the contrary is proved, innocent. These men have no convenience. They are ill-fed and ill-clothed. They are not given facilities for shaving, etc. They have to sleep on the damp floor and the floor is full of vermin. In some stations, the lock-ups are too narrow. In Chavara, the lock-up is only ten feet square and four or five Pulayas and half a dozen Nairs were locked up in that one room. We also find that *thondi* articles are usually kept in the lock-ups. All this is highly improper. In the Central Prison, on the other hand, we find that the prisoners are housed in a palatial building and are given but sufficient exercise to digest the food given. The condition of the lock-ups has to be considerably improved.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In this connection I wish to say a few words. It has to be brought to the notice of the Government this year also that the pay of the Police Commissioner, including allowances, etc., is far higher than what the State can afford to pay. When Mr. Pitt, the present Commissioner, is reverted to the British service, we request that the Government would always keep in mind the principle that no one should be appointed on any account for anything more than the ordinary pay fixed for the post.

Another point I wish to touch upon is with regard to the resolution demanding an alteration in the Arms Rules.

PRESIDENT: The police have nothing to do with the Arms Rules.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I thought the police were connected with its working.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has brought up a large number of subjects; and on a great many of them I have written essays which I have not the time to read.

First, with reference to the recruitment of my successor, I have nothing to say, except that the Government have noted what has been said.

Mr. Raman Pillai referred to the recruitment of D. S. P's. and suggested that they might be recruited from other departments instead of being promoted from the lower ranks. That will be borne in mind.

He referred to the educational qualifications of the officers of the Police. He is wrong in what he said because the minimum educational qualification required of an Inspector is a Degree in Arts. When the reorganisation of 1088 came about Sir P. Rajagopalachariar laid it down that after 10 years the appointment to the rank of Sub-Inspector from the lower ranks would cease and that all appointments would be made from among graduates directly recruited. That was 10 years ago and the period has expired in 1098. Since then, no new appointment has been made at all.

He referred to a particular A. S. P.: all that I would say on the subject is that all this happened some years ago and it may be hoped that in the meantime his conduct has improved if it was as bad as Mr. Raman Pillai tried to make out.

The reduction of the cost of establishment by closing Police Stations is a point on which I should like to hear something more. From the 1st Chingam 1098, certain stations were closed including Kumili Station mentioned by the mover. There is no station there now but only an outpost. I think Mr. Raman Pillai was taking a bold line when he suggested that more stations might be closed. When there are such proposals they are usually dropped because of local opposition. I hope other members of this House will state their views in the matter of closing stations in their constituencies. I have no doubt that the Government will attach much weight to their opinions.

With regard to prosecuting inspectors, the Head Sirkar Vakil is examining a scheme on the lines suggested, that is to say, whether prosecuting inspectors might not be eliminated and some other agency employed. The only obstacle is that of cost, because it is doubtful whether it would not cost more to employ another agency. I have not talked over the matter with the Head Sirkar Vakil since he has taken up the investigation. So I cannot say anything more. With regard to the C. I. D., we have reduced the establishment this year. The sanctioned establishment is two inspectors, two head constables, and 10 constables. We are now employing one inspector, two head constables and five constables. I think that is the minimum establishment that ought to be maintained. In fact, members of this House have suggested to me that it ought to be increased in order that investigating officers may be sent out from the headquarters to take up more cases, such as the tracing of the origin of counterfeit currency notes. Such enquiries require an officer to travel all over Travancore and it is well that he should be assisted by his own men, instead of by men from the local stations.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Then he said that the constables might be reduced by giving up day-beats. He also said that constables who went on day-beats never brought back any information. I think he is not to be taken literally. The accusation is not quite correct. Constables do occasionally bring back information. I would tell this House that one of the things they do is to serve 400 processes daily. I do not know how many process servers would be required by the civil courts to serve this number of processes which approximates 1½ lakhs a year. And if day-beats are given up we should require an army of men solely to serve processes. I should like to have this work done by some other body. But I do not think that that will save any expenditure because the processes will still have to be served.

Then he referred to the clerical work. I was looking into the subject in the District Superintendent's office at Trivandrum. If my memory is correct, there have been 60,000 original papers dealt with this year. The office receives 1,200 petitions a year in addition to complaints.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): What objection is there in asking magistrates to enquire into the petitions?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I should have the greatest pleasure if they would do it. When I say petitions, I mean petitions about land and so on, and not complaints against police officers.

Then with regard to the Reserve, Mr. Raman Pillai suggested a reduction. Well, we made a reduction last year. In 1097 we had 14 head constables and 209 constables, and we reduced the constables to 164. We have examined the question of further reduction. We are sending out men from headquarters to places outside for preserving the peace. I think that some members of this House will say that we have not got enough men or at any rate we are not sending out enough men. The reason is that we have no more men to send, and I should not advise this House to effect any further reduction. There is no other reserve from which we can take men in time of need.

With regard to the necessity of A. S. P's., as the subject will come up later, and I have spoken long enough, I shall not say anything about it now.

With regard to lock-ups, Government have already ordered a weekly inspection by medical officers throughout the State. I have no doubt that that is all that is required to bring about an improvement.

Mr. M. N. Pillai referred again to the appointment of my successor. I have nothing more to say on this subject.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, in supporting the motion now before the House, I wish to bring to the notice of the Council one particular fact, and that is the very liberal use that

is made of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. I find, from the statistics of 1096 and 1097, that the number of prosecutions in 1096 under this section was 80, whereas in 1097 it increased to 102, that is, by more than 25 per cent. Such a large increase in the prosecutions under the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code shows a very unsatisfactory state of affairs indeed. This is a matter which affects the liberty of the subject, and unless there is perfect need for proceeding under this section, no prosecution ought to be launched. If offences are committed by particular persons and that leads to a breach of the peace those offences should be punished rather than steps being taken to prosecute them under the Criminal Procedure Code. It appears to me that this large increase is due to the temperance movement started in the country. On account of the anti-tapping movement, a large number of people were prosecuted and asked to furnish security. Several cases came to my personal notice, and I found that some of them were launched without proper foundations, based upon certain specified acts done by them which did not form the cause for prosecution, while as a matter of fact they might have. If prosecutions are started for offences really committed, the offenders may not be convicted and they will not have proved the case against them. They take advantage of the security section and launch a lot of prosecutions. It appears to me that such prosecutions affect the liberty of the subject and it is a matter which be taken account of.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Since my friend Mr. Pitt has invited the opinion of the members of the several constituencies in regard to the possibilities of reduction of stations, I think, I should answer him. So far as my constituency is concerned, I think I may not be justified in pleading for a reduction.

As for the inmates of the lock-ups, I agree with Mr. Raman Pillai who has so correctly depicted the melancholy state of affairs that I also urge upon the Police Commissioner, the Government, as well as the members of this House about the necessity of immediate steps being taken to protect the innocent persons who have to undergo so much suffering.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, Police reorganisations have been frequently carried out. Even the first reform of Mr. George involved the payment of salaries out of proportion to the finances of the State. The creation of Circle Inspectors on prohibitive salaries was condemned. The then Government (of Mr. Krishnan Nair) saw the force of the condemnation and reduced the number of Circle Inspectors when opportunities arose. But substantial reductions could not be made as very few vacancies arose. The policy was to put in police officers of smaller pay. Before that scheme could be worked out, Mr. Cunningham, as Police Commissioner, thought that the Circle Inspector was unnecessary, especially as that class of officers was being abolished in British India. The general reorganisation of last year was based on the top of Mr. George's reform of large salaries. The net result of the present scheme is that every class of police officers is at present placed

[MR. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

on a par with, or higher than, the position of magistrates of every grade, the minimum pay of the District Magistrate being only Rs. 500. In this country, as in other places, pay is a criterion to judge of status and prestige. How can there be protection of life and property, if police officers dominate our magistrates? Magisterial authority has been understood to be such that even a Third Class Magistrate can order the head of the police force to execute a warrant. The ordinary complaint of magistrates is that their orders are not often carried out even by police constables. This complaint was made at the Assembly. There cannot be a more flagrant want of the sense of proportion than giving a salary to the Police Commissioner higher than that of the Chief Justice of Travancore. Nothing can be more outrageous from the point of view of a satisfactory and safe system of the administration of criminal justice.

Regarding the Assistant Superintendents, I supported their appointment in my last budget speech. I shall do so now also in case Mr. Pitt is able to show that the appointment is necessary.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I also support the motion. In supporting it I only want to bring one fact to the notice of this House. To my mind, the police here are day by day getting more and more inefficient. The detective results achieved 20 or 25 years ago, when the police were not so much overmanned as now, were certainly very much better than at present. I happened to go through some of the Administration Reports of previous years.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I think I might interrupt and say that in those days the figure of detection was worked out differently from the way we work it out now.

PRESIDENT: You may say that in your reply.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): What I thought was that if I might say it now it would save a lot of discussion which would be really of no value. The figures in those days were worked out in a different way.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I wish to hear what the Commissioner has to say in regard to the percentage of lost property recovered. In the year 1075, the percentage of lost property recovered was 64·2; in 1076, 77·6; in 1096, it came down to 39, and in 1097 it was 47. Apart from these statements in the Administration Report we know as a matter of fact that in this respect the police work is very unsatisfactory. Last year while discussing about the A. S. P's., I brought to the notice of the Council a matter about which I had personal knowledge, *i. e.*, about the theft of street lamps within the municipal limits. The Deputy President thought my remarks as verging on the ridiculous. But, however, I must say that they are true. I have personal knowledge of the sort of help that the taxpayer is getting from the police in other countries.

So, even after mature consideration, I think I am not in a position to follow the attitude of the Deputy President. Several cases are daily reported to the police and we see absolutely no useful result. I had sent up a motion under the 'Administration of Justice.' But that motion had to lapse. I only refer to it here incidentally. Some of these bad results are due to the larger pay given to the police officers than that of the sub-magistrates whose orders these police officers have to carry out. I think it is not right to place the police officers in the same status as the magistrates whose orders they are to execute. That is not desirable in the interests of the public. Whatever be the way in which these results are now measured by the department, to my mind, Sir, these unsatisfactory results are due to the system. I have absolutely no complaint against the policeman as such. I should think the present-day policemen are very much wanting in imagination. Mr. Raman Pillai brought to the notice of the House the way in which recruitment is made to the higher grades of the Police Department. I think that, without real detective skill on the part of these people, we cannot expect satisfactory results. I think we are sending out men particularly for criminal detective work without giving them proper training. The policemen ought to be given good training and until something is done in that way the people will not get what they want for the money they spend.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there is a general desire, which I also share, that, as far as possible, all higher as well as lower appointments, in the State should be reserved for the sons of the soil. But I also feel that there is a far more imperious consideration, *viz.*, that some of the highest officers who have to discharge the most onerous duties should be able to do so to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. There are diverse communities and races in the country. Sometimes there will be serious outbreaks of disorders and communal troubles. On all these occasions the Commissioner of Police especially ought to be one who should command the undisputed confidence and trust of all the parties without any difference. Now the difference in salary by a few rupees more or less is a trifling and insignificant consideration when the other consideration, *viz.*, that the officer should be able to command the confidence of the people in all the crises in the country, is taken into account. I think it admits of no difference of opinion that, if the two can be combined, surely we ought to go in for sons of the soil and also ought to manage our affairs on as low a salary as possible. This axiomatic truth being acceded to by all, I also could gladly subscribe to the general proposition that we should try and reduce expenditure as far as possible on these appointments. But I am not at all for the proposition that, without any consideration of efficiency and general satisfaction, we should always think of a low salary and of the sons of the soil and all that. (*Hear, hear.*) The two considerations, so far as they can be reconciled with one another, ought to be held in view. I have nothing to say with regard to Mr. Pitt because he can stand on his own legs and he does not stand in need

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

of anybody else's commendation. With regard to the D. S. P's., A. S. P's. and Inspectors, there is no doubt whatever that that system is capable of improvement. When these higher officers are men who are endowed with a sense of responsibility, they can be of the greatest possible help. At the same time, if they are men without a character and without a sense of responsibility the amount of mischief that they are capable of is something incalculable. We are moving about the country and we know what is passing on. Often we have to be painful witnesses of the depredations of police officers. But at the same time we are gratified to say that there are a few police officers who behave like fathers to the people. There can be no hard and fast rule, because some persons with higher educational qualifications turn out to be black sheep and sometimes men without a tail to their names turn out to be very satisfactory. All that I can plead is that the highest possible standards should be insisted on in the matter of recruitment. I think that, on the whole, it has been found that men with degrees are much more satisfactory than men without educational qualifications.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, Mr. Pitt's pay seems to have come in for a lot of consideration at the hands of the members of this House. I would only invite the attention of the House to the pay of officers in one of the self-governing countries of the world. In Japan I know—I think Mr. Paramesvara Aiyar may rouse himself and tell us something, but I have to make the comparison—the Prime Minister gets only Rs. 18,850 a year, the Military General gets only Rs. 11,250 a year. The President of the Appeal Courts gets only Rs. 7,500 a year. The Admiral of the fleet gets only Rs. 11,250 a year. The Governor General of Corea gets only Rs. 12,000 in the year. The highest imperial officer of the University gets only Rs. 12,500 in the year. And Japan is a State with a population of fifty millions and a revenue of 5 crores of rupees.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): May I know at what rates of exchange the member is calculating?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): At the rate of Rs. 2½ per yen.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Thank you.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): If then some of the members of the House say that in respect of the place of the Police Commissioner, at least after Mr. Pitt has retired, the question of pay has to receive the attention of Government, I believe they have perfect justification for it. As it is, Mr. Pitt and Government are under contractual arrangement and they cannot go against it. We are under an obligation to Mr. Pitt. On the other hand, what Mr. Pitt has been doing on behalf of the State has been very much to the good of the State. But in future, I submit, the sons of the soil should have a patriotic chance of doing the work at a less salary.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have nothing to add..

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, there is one point in what Mr. Hoogewerf said that I should like to correct. He said that Mr. Cunningham was in favour of abolishing circles on the ground, as I heard him say, that it had been done in the Madras Presidency. Mr. Cunningham was seriously opposed to the abolition of circles. The experiment was made in the Madras Presidency, but was abandoned afterwards on account of the disorder and bad effects that it resulted in.

I interrupted Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, when he was talking about the figures of detection, because I thought it would save the time of the House to point out that the figure was arrived at by a different method. He asked me about lost property figures. In olden days, if the Police themselves considered cases to be false, they struck off the whole case and showed the property as not lost. And so they excluded it from their figures. What we now do is to await the order of the magistrate to know whether a case is true or false and no case is struck off without a magistrate's order. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code and commented upon the action taken by the police in connection with the temperance movement. The figures that he gave do not show any very great difference; they were 80 and 102. The preparation and sale of alcoholic liquor is not forbidden in Travancore and therefore persons engaged in its sale and preparation have the same right of protection as any other subject of His Highness the Maha Raja. That goes without saying. I looked into a good number of cases that relate to the agitation to which Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai referred, and I did not come across a case myself, where action was not taken on what seemed to be very good grounds.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, do you withdraw your motion?

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 249 and 250.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

249. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,100 for Second Grade Inspectors by Rs. 6,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

250. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for duty allowance to C. I. D. Inspector.

Motion 251.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has requested me to submit that, as his motion is the same as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's, *viz.*, 254, he does not move his.

The following motion was accordingly not moved:—

251. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,11,383 for establishment by Rs. 14,400.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

Motions 252 and 253.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

252. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,716 for establishment for Superintendents, offices by Rs. 1,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

253. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,856 for establishment for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 1,428.

Motion 254.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Sir, I beg to move :—

254. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,856 for establishment for Assistant Superintendents' offices by Rs. 1,428.

The object of the motion, mainly, is to invite the attention of Government to a consideration of the principle underlying the appointment of the Assistant Superintendents. Sir, before the year 1912, the Police Department was under a Superintendent of Police with a few Assistant Superintendents to assist him. About the year 1912, Mr. George became the Superintendent of Police. His administration of the Police Department was characterised by, what I may call, a declaration of independence on the part of the Police Department. Echoes of that period may be had from certain judgments of the High Court of Travancore in which Their Honors of the High Court had to point out to the Police Department the duties that they were really called upon to perform and the necessity for the co-operation of the Police Department in the matter of the disposal of cases in criminal courts. Evidently, the disagreement between the police and the courts was then brought to a head, necessitating a reorganisation of the whole department. Corresponding to the five revenue divisions of the State five District Superintendents of Police over five police districts were appointed with a District Superintendent for each of the divisions. The District Superintendents of Police were held responsible for the administration of each of the police districts. The charging stations rose from 1,057 to 1,068. The prior practice of having head constables as officers in charge of the police stations was discontinued and Sub-Inspectors of Police were to be in charge of police stations. Police circles were also formed, about 17 in number, and Circle Inspectors of Police were appointed to watch the proceedings of the Sub-Inspectors. There was also a reduction of out-posts in connection with that reorganisation. These are the main features of the reorganisation conducted in the year 1912. The subsequent reorganisation of the Police Department was in the year 1922. In the previous reorganisation of the department, the District Magistrates were consulted by the Government along with the Commissioner of Police, and it is distinctly laid down in the proceedings of the Government, as regards the reorganisation of the

department, that a complete co-operation, if not also a subordination on the part of the Police, was expected by Government in the matter of the administration of criminal law. In the last reorganisation, however, we notice that no District Magistrate was consulted with respect to the reorganisation. As to the object of the last reorganisation, *i. e.*, the reorganisation of 1922, except that we see in the proceedings the mention of retrenchment and efficiency, both of which may now be taken as the refrain of official music, we do not see what actually necessitated the particular reorganisation in question.

The number of D. S. P's. was reduced with the result that we have now got only three D. S. P's. The three districts are presided over by these officers. Each of them is again practically sub-divided with two Assistant Superintendents of Police employed under each of the D. S. P's. One of these Assistant Superintendents is to be known as the head-quarter A. S. P. and to be practically a Personal Assistant to the D. S. P. The other man is to do duty in the outlying portions of the police dstrict. The Circle Inspectors as a body were dropped, and the grade of Inspectors have been sub-divided into three with a view to graduate the pay of the Inspectors. These are the main changes introduced in the last reorganisation. One thing that we notice in connection with the work of the police is the gradual decline in the number of cognisable cases investigated by the police being 3,581 in 1095 which fell to 3,354 in 1096 and 2,937 in 1097.

Another feature that we notice in recent years is the increase of grave crimes and a fall in the number of processes served by the police. We see further that the police seem to resent references made to them by the magistracy with the result that, in the Administration Report for 1097—

PRESIDENT: How does it bear on the question of the appointment of the A. S. P.? We are not now discussing a general cut from the Police Department, are we?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): A number of circumstances which afford cover to A. S. P's. must be before the House before I attack him directly. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: The connection seems to be very remote.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, it is not very far distant. Well, if you, Sir, as President, think it is rather out of the line, I will drop the matter.

With respect to the recent reorganisation then, and also with respect to the recent tendency of the working in the department we notice the following features in addition to the features already specified. Now, one aspect that seems to have been lost sight of in the recent reorganisation of the Police Department is the intimate co-operation that was expected to subsist between the police and the magistrates. That seems to have been entirely overlooked.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That is laid down by statute in the Police Regulation.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): That is true; it is in the Police Regulation. But in spite of the Police Regulation, the police can manage themselves in such a way as not to co-operate with the magistracy.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of detail. If there is no co-operation between the police and a particular magistrate it is a matter to be brought up to the Government or the Police Commissioner.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The re-organisation of the department comes in for consideration. It is only in that way that I bring it up. With respect to the work of the A. S. P., as has already been pointed out by my friend Mr. Raman Pillai, it is in a nebulous sphere. Nothing definite has been laid down as the amount of work or the nature of the work that is separately to be turned out by the D. S. P. and the A. S. P. Now, it is possible to neglect all manner of work. For, the D. S. P. may expect the A. S. P. to turn out the amount of work that naturally fell to his share and the reverse sort of outlook may be entertained by the A. S. P. also. First of all, with respect to the question of investigation of offences it is not obligatory on the part of the A. S. P. For that matter, it is not obligatory on either the A. S. P. or the D. S. P. to investigate any case at all. His work, in the main, may be seen to be one of supervision. His supervision is exercised upon the subordinate Sub-Inspectors and the constabulary. Well, as a matter of fact, the recruitment of the lower grades, *i. e.*, of the constables and head constables and that sort of people, is somewhat unsatisfactory. Any amount of supervision will not be of avail. With respect to the result of the supervision the public at large are not in a position to judge. The only occasions on which the conduct and character of policemen come to the light of the public are occasions on which their conduct is legally in question before the judiciary. Judging by the notice taken of the strictures passed by the judiciary upon the conduct of the policemen in connection with cases, the sort of treatment that they get has been already illustrated by my friend Mr. Raman Pillai, quoting from judgments of Sessions Courts. So, this sort of work which is not open to public gaze is that which is being pursued by the A. S. P.

Further, I raise the question, Sir, that if the Government think that they are putting in a number of questionable people in the lower grades of the Police Department—constables, head constables and that sort of people, necessitating at once a supervision over their work by a superior body of officers—A. S. P's.—whether it is not a step of questionable wisdom. The utmost care ought to be entertained in the way of recruiting people to the grade of the lowest rungs, *i. e.*, the constable. It is there that care ought to have been employed. It is no good first of all to appoint a number of people, and at once, entertaining the suspicion that these people would be misbehaving, to create

another agency to supervise them. Therefore, in the matter of recruitment it is that care should be employed and not in the matter of creating agencies for the supervision of the work of these people. As it stands, I may submit that the work of the A. S. P. is of an unascertainable kind; and then in the matter of this recent reorganisation of the police there are also several aspects which ought to have been borne in mind by the Government. First, I would draw the attention of Government as to whether they considered the nature of Police supervision in particular parts of the country; for, the nature of the crimes committed in different parts of the country is different. For example, in the case of towns, the sort of offences that we generally come across may be placed under certain categories, like petty thefts and infringment of the municipal laws; whereas in the outlying parts of the State, the sort of crime committed may be seen to be somewhat different. Further, there are certain centres in which the infringement of the criminal law may be seen to be on the increase while in certain other centres the peace-loving population have been needlessly getting the keen supervision of the police.

With reference to the statement made by my friend Mr. Nidiry, he said it was very difficult to get rid of policemen in his own constituency, I mean Minachil, as may be illustrated by the activity of the Sessions Court in that centre. It would have been wise on the part of the Government and the Police Department to have concentrated attention upon that particular tract. There are tracts of this description in the State which require close supervision of the police. But no such idea was kept before the Government in the matter of reorganising the department. As a rule, the requirements of the State, as a whole, will have to be carefully examined in the light of the statistics relating to different localities before any reorganisation. Here we have got a reorganisation which looks quite right on paper, with precise similarity in the division as the whole State is divided into three districts each of which is subdivided into two. Whether the necessity exists or not, something like geometrical symmetry has been kept up. Though no part of the State can do without police supervision, the closeness or intensity of such supervision will vary with different centres. Therefore, in a system of this description, as I submitted, an intermediary officer like the A. S. P. can escape all work ostensibly showing an air of attention to his own work and pretending that he is doing a lot of work, while, as a matter of fact, not doing any work at all. So, my humble submission is that the whole scheme of the recent reorganisation of the police has to be re-examined in the light of my submission before a case is made out justifying the appointment of the A. S. P. As he has already been appointed, the pay of the A. S. P. will have to be cut by a half.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether he agrees to the substitution of an outpost for the charging station at Pulincunnu?

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not agree. It requires a station house. The nature of my taluk demands peculiar considerations. For, locomotion is extremely difficult. (*Laughter.*) We have to move about mainly in boats.

PRESIDENT: It is a very easy thing.

MR. P. V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I think, I should say a word or two in this connection.

Sir, if the police budget were placed in the hands of a British Indian gentleman, I am sure he will think that Travancore must be, in respect of crimes, just like the District of Coimbatore or the land of Moplahs or Kallars. We are not, Sir, confronted with a series of murders and tragedies, with the inroads of modern Robin Hoods or with the political propaganda of non-co-operation. Sir, there is absolutely no reason for maintaining such a costly police force in a peaceful country like ours which is inhabited by law-abiding and loyal subjects.

Apart from the luxuries at the top of the department, which, we are told, are inevitable at present, and which, we sincerely hope, will in due course be removed, it is distressing, Sir, to look at luxuries even in the subordinate ranks. One such instance is the appointment of six Assistant Police Superintendents. At about this time, last year, some of the learned members of this House, who are as much patriots as any others, pleaded for the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendents. Sir, we do not stand in need of half a dozen costly Personal Assistants on Rs. 250 each per mensem for the District Police Superintendents starting each on Rs. 300. This looks, Sir, as something fantastic. If any necessity for help in the office is felt, the District Police Superintendent may be given a reader, as they do in British India, to serve as a personal clerk. It is unnecessary, Sir, to have such costly Assistants in the office when the Police Commissioner himself is contented with having an Inspector for his office. At the most, one Assistant Police Superintendent has to be placed under the Police Commissioner for urgent calls. There is absolutely no work for the Assistant Police Superintendent which the District Police Superintendent cannot do himself. In fact, I am afraid that, if the present system be allowed to continue long, efficiency and mismanagement will be the result. I appeal to the learned Police Commissioner to take a dispassionate view of the matter. I hope this golden opportunity of doing some good to the public of Travancore by a reduction in the staff of the police force will not be lost this time at least.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മററു ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറുകളോടു താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കീഴ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണ് അധികം അക്രമങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങളെ വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുന്നതെന്നു പറയാതെയിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല.

എന്നാൽ മററു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ കീഴ്ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപ്പോലെ ഇവർ നാൾക്കുനാൾ അധികം ചീത്തയായിവരുന്നു എന്ന് പറയാൻതരമില്ല. ചീത്തയാകാവുന്നിടത്തോളം പണ്ടെതന്നെ ചീത്തയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തെയും സമാധാനത്തെയും കാക്കേണ്ട ഇവർ ഇത്രവളരെ ചീത്തയായിപ്പോയതു വളരെ കഷ്ടതരമാണെന്നു പറയാതെയിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. വേലിതന്നെ വിളവു തിന്നുന്നതുപോലെയാണ് ഇവരുടെ നില. ഇവരുടെ എല്ലാം മേൽ പോലീസ്കമ്മീഷണരോ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട്സൂപ്രണ്ടോ എപ്പോഴും ദൃഷ്ടിപതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരെ വയ്ക്കുന്നതു നന്നാണെന്നാണ് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇവരും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരോടും ഹെഡ്കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരോടും ചേർന്ന് അകൃത്യങ്ങൾക്കൊരുങ്ങുന്നു എന്നുവരികിൽ അധികം കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. കീഴ്വാറും ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും ഹെഡ്കാൺസ്റ്റബിൾമാരും ജനങ്ങളെ പലതരത്തിൽ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണ്. നല്ല അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ ഇവർ നിമിത്തം വരുന്ന കഷ്ടതകളെ ധരിപ്പിച്ച് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം നേടാം. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ പററി പ്രസ്താവിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ കോട്ടയത്താണ് ഒരു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട്സൂപ്രണ്ടുള്ളത്. അവിടെ നിന്നും ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ൫൦ മൈൽ വരെ ദൂരമുണ്ട്. ഉൾനാട്ടുകളിൽ നിന്നും അവിടത്തേക്ക് കമ്പിത്തപാലും മററുമൊന്നുമില്ല. എന്തെങ്കിലും അകൃത്യങ്ങൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരും പോലീസുകാരും തുടങ്ങുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉടനെ പോലീസുകമ്മീഷണരേയോ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ടുസൂപ്രണ്ടിനേയോ അറിയിക്കാൻ എളുപ്പമില്ല. കമ്പിമാർഗ്ഗം അറിയിക്കാൻ സാധാരണ പ്രയാസമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രണ്ടന്മാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ അറിയിച്ചാൽ ഏറെക്കുറെ നിവൃത്തി ഉണ്ടായി എന്നുവരാം. ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരെപ്പോലെയാകാതെ ഇവർ നല്ലവരാകാൻ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഏതായാലും വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കെങ്കിലും ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടാവശ്യമാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കുന്നത്തുനാട്ടാണ് ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. അവിടെ കമ്പിത്തപാലും മററുമൊന്നുമില്ല. കമ്പിയാപ്പീസുള്ളത് മൂവാററുപുഴയാണ്. ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടുള്ളത് അവിടെയാണെങ്കിൽ കുറെക്കൂടി സൌകര്യമായിരിക്കും. എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ശമ്പളവും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും കൂടുതലാണെന്നുള്ള പക്ഷക്കാരനാണ് ഞാൻ. എന്നാൽ വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ അവസ്ഥ ഓർക്കുമ്പോൾ അവിടെ

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

ഒരസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ട് എത്രയും ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടാതിരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാരുടെമേൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറു സൂപ്രണ്ടിൻറയും അവരുടെ മേൽ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് സൂപ്രണ്ടിൻറയും അവരുടെ മേൽ കമ്മീഷണരുടേയും ദൃഷ്ടി പതിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ രക്ഷയുണ്ട്.

അതുകൊണ്ടു വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറുസൂപ്രണ്ടിനേയെങ്കിലും നിൎത്തിക്കളയാതിരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I supported the appointment of A. S. P's. very strongly last year. I would wish to do the same this year also, with the proviso that I am not supporting a broken reed. My support was really based on the supposition that these A. S. P's. were necessary to investigate into cases detected by Police Inspectors. That was a strong point on which I based my argument. Now Mr. Narayana Pillai says that that sort of investigation is not absolutely necessary. I wish Mr. Pitt to clearly point out whether it is necessary or not. That is the main point.

Now, I come to a little experience I had of the A. S. P. (*Laughter.*) I was interested in a very big theft case near Cape Comorin. The A. S. P. took one view of the case and the D. S. P. took another which I thought was the right view. My friend Mr. Daniel will bear me out in this matter. Indeed the A. S. P. was pulling one side and the D. S. P. was pulling the other side. (*Laughter.*) The result has been a sort of deadlock. The case, I believe, has not been detected as yet. Now, if that is going to be the order of things, I should with one stroke of the pen get rid of the A. S. P. (*Laughter.*) But the matter must be seriously considered before such a step is taken. There is greater complexity of life; aspects have changed with the growth of population and with the growth of crime. At any rate, if the A. S. P's. are to be got rid of, one man at least is necessary in the Capital to be always ready to be sent to some place where there is trouble. I believe the A. S. P. here was sent a couple of nights ago with a reserve force to surround a village, somewhere near Aramboly, where the great Jembulingam, (*laughter*) was said to have been. So, a smart A. S. P. is necessary always, at least for occasions of this kind; and particularly, when the D. S. P. goes out on circuit, one man is absolutely necessary in the Capital.

If I propose that the A. S. P's. should be reduced, it is on the ground of economy; because, as I said before, duplication of appointments does not make for efficiency. With these remarks, I leave my mind open for Mr. Pitt to convince me.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I strongly support the motion I think the number of A. S. P's. can be reduced from six to three. The argument advanced by the Police Commissioner was that he has reduced the number of intermediary officers from 10 to 6 and thus he has made a saving. But the question that we have to consider is not whether we have made a saving or whether we have made a reduction in the number of the intermediary officers. The question to be considered is whether so many intermediary officers are necessary for the administration of the department. Before 1088, there were only one Commissioner, three A. S. P's., and 50 Inspectors, and in 1086, 3,801 cases were investigated by the police. Now the number of cases investigated by the police is gradually decreasing, and in 1096 only 3,354 cases were investigated by the police out of which 2,449 were taken direct by the police and 690 cases were referred by the magistrates. Out of the 690 cases referred by the magistrates, 681 were returned to the magistrates as false. In 1097, only 2,937 cases were investigated by the police, out of which 519 were referred by the magistrates, and out of these 418 were returned as false. So, as the number of cases to be investigated by the police is decreasing we can infer that there is not so much of work now as in the past. Now there are one Commissioner, 3, D. S. P's., 6, A. S. P's., and 76 Inspectors. In the reorganisation of 1088, 17 circles were created and Sub-Inspectors were put under the Circle Inspectors. But later on, it was found that the Circle Inspectors were not necessary. These intermediary officers were not doing efficient work and so their number was reduced from ten to six. Now, in each District there are two A. S. P's., and one of them is appointed to help the D. S. P. By giving an Assistant to the D. S. P., he is almost left free and he has not got sufficient work to do. If only one Assistant is given to the D. S. P. and if that Assistant is deputed to supervise the work of the police district, one Assistant can be reduced from each district.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): From my own personal experience as well as from the information that I was able to gather, I am glad to say that the A. S. P's. are doing some useful work. With the abolition of the Circle Inspectors, they have become almost a necessity, at least as far as the country parts are concerned; because, as Mr. Kunjitomman said, especially in the country parts, the lower officers of the Police Department are doing a lot of mischief. These country parts should be frequently visited by responsible officers of the Police Department. The appointment of these A. S. P's. has made it possible to have frequent visits of higher officers to the country parts. But I would suggest, for the consideration of the Police Commissioner, to give them more definite work and to get from them as many visits as possible, not only to the towns and crowded areas, but also to the interior of the country, and I would further suggest that the Personal Assistant who is now stationed at the headquarters of the D. S. P. may also be given division charge, so that he too may go about and check these lower officers.

[Mr. W. H. Pitt.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I wish to know from the Rev. Father whether the sort of work that the D. S. P. is now doing is all right.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): About the work of the D. S. P's., I have nothing to complain. But I am not prepared to say that all that they do is quite satisfactory or otherwise.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I agree with the Rev. Father and Mr. Kunjitommon about the desirability of having superior police officers to control and encourage, and sometimes discourage, the business of the police up-country. But from my limited experience I am not satisfied that the headquarters A. S. P. also is necessary. So long as a responsible officer of the status of the D. S. P. is always residing in the headquarters, the A. S. P. there seems to be a superfluity. Of course, I do not know the details as regards their work; but from my observation from a distance I think it might be possible, without impairing efficiency, to reduce the three head-quarter A. S. P's.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, the gist of the mover's speech is that the Travancore Police is over-officered, and that the officers and men are kept in the wrong places, and that the District Magistrates were not consulted at the time of the reorganisation of the department, and so on. I will refer to other points later. I pointed out to the House, when speaking on this very same subject last year, that the number of superior officers, *i. e.*, officers superior in rank to the officer in charge of a station, has been steadily reduced from the year 1088 onwards. I believe there is no dispute about the figures I gave. The number of officers of rank higher than that of station house officer was in

1087	...	43
1088	...	22
1098	...	10

and in 1099 the number provided is the same, *viz.*, ten, that is to say, in 11 years the number has been reduced from 43 to 10. It is my opinion, and I give it to this House for what it is worth, that the reduction of superior officers has been carried to the limit of danger.

MR M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is that number 43?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That is the number of officers superior in rank to the station house officer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does Mr. Pitt mean to say that the number has been reduced from 43 to 10?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir. The number has been reduced from 43 in 1097 to 10 now. We have now 10 officers instead of 43.

Firstly, I would give the House a rough idea of the work that falls upon superior officers of police. There is, in the first place, the administration of a department employing roughly 2,000 hands. In the second place, there is the investigation of more serious offences. It has been stated that the D. S. P. and the A. S. P. are not compelled to investigate crimes. That is not accurate. They are compelled—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Under what law or regulation are they compelled?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): There is a departmental order to that effect.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know from Mr. Pitt how many cases have been investigated directly by these superintendents in the year 1098.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I am now dealing with *what* the department has to do. If Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants, I will state later on, *how* the department carries on its work.

Thirdly, there is the investigation of complaints against officers and men of the department itself. Fourthly, there are the making of arrangements for the protection of property by beats and patrols, the preservation of peace, the maintenance of order at festivals and other large gatherings, the control of traffic, and so on.

As regards Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's question, it is not easy, within the time at my disposal, to give him a comprehensive idea of the manner in which the A. S. P's. have performed their share of the above duties.

Statistics of work done, particularly police work, are apt to be deceptive, for an investigation may be useful or it may not be, and an inspection may be thorough or superficial. But, for what they are worth, I will give the House an abstract (compiled from the diaries which they send me), of the duties performed by Assistant Superintendents during the first eleven months of the current year.

I have got figures for all the six Assistant Superintendents. The motion refers only to the headquarter Assistant Superintendents. These three Assistant Superintendents have carried out 64 inspections of stations, investigated 126 crimes and have held 51 departmental enquiries and have also investigated 49 petitions.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know from Mr. Pitt whether he would find it possible to give us the total number of crimes during the eleven months of last year.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have not prepared statistics. Crimes are not ledgered in my office.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask what proportion the 126 cases bear to the total work of the A. S. P's.?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I can work out the calculation and give it to the member in about 20 minutes.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: I presume that that number relates to the most important cases.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, Sir. It relates to what are known as grave crimes.

With regard to complaints against officers and men of the department itself I should like to say a little more, as it is an important subject, and to my mind the most important subject with which a superior officer of police has to deal. The Police Department is in the fortunate position of being subjected to a searching criticism, unknown, I may say, in any other department. Whatever action the police take, or do not take, some member of the public is affected thereby and the consequence is that we register, and dispose of, some 500 complaints per annum against ourselves.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there a register of complaints maintained by District Superintendents?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, and in my office too. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether as a rule the A. S. P's. attend District and other courts to give evidence or watch cases

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They do attend courts. But I cannot say how often they do so. It is not very often that they are summoned as witnesses.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I mean whether, without summons, as regards cases of murder and of big thefts, as a rule, these A. S. P's and Inspectors watch the proceedings in courts.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): They do not attend courts daily, but they do so whenever necessary.

As I was saying, during the course of the year, we have registered and disposed of 500 complaints against ourselves.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether it will not be more satisfactory if these complaints are enquired into by magistrates.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have no objection. But I do not know if anybody can be compelled to make a complaint to a magistrate. If a complaint is brought to us we have to entertain it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedunangad*): Sir, I wish to know from Mr. Pitt whether during the inspections made by the higher police officers of the State they have come across instances in which the police subordinates were guilty of high-handed action such as bribery and things of that kind, and if so, how many police subordinates were dismissed or suspended as a consequence.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I have not got the figures. As far as I can remember, about 33—officers and men—were dismissed last year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): What I want to know is whether these dismissals have been effected as a result of the inspection by D. S. P's.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes, as a result of inspections by D. S. P's. I have not got the figures; but a lot of men have been punished as a direct result of such inspections.

It has been said—on what grounds I do not know—that we the superior officers of the police ignore all such complaints. I should like to give an illustration of the light-hearted way in which this charge is made. A constable undertook to despatch a money order for a lame beggar who wished to send his surplus profits to his family and is charged with misappropriating the money. The incident was reported by a local newspaper. This is how the account ended. I think I may try to say it in Malayalam. "[illegible] വളർന്നു [illegible]." (*Laughter.*) The real facts of the case are these: The incident took place in the evening. The beggar told his story to some constables of the Cantonment station. I was very much pleased to find that the constables made immediate enquiries and ascertained who the constable concerned was. The alleged culprit belonged to the Reserve. Information was sent to the Police Headquarters Office. The men of the guard there detained the constable and sent word to the Reserve Inspector, who by 9 P. M. of the same day recovered the money and secured the necessary evidence. The case was sent up to myself next morning and by noon of that day the constable had left the department. He is now under trial and the prosecution is being conducted by this department.

With regard to the return of the money to the beggar, the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code relating to the disposal of stolen property will apply. Even if Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code is to be ignored, Section 401 has to be followed. I have quoted this instance to show that the superior officers of this department do, as far as possible, endeavour to rid the department of abuses, and that if all the superior officers are taken away it will be impossible to maintain discipline hereafter. I have no doubt that I shall be told that if a complaint is against a station house officer the District Superintendent himself can investigate it and that if it is against a head constable or constable it can be sent to the station house officer for disposal. In the first place, the D. S. P. will not be able to investigate all the complaints that he receives, because these complaints are large in number. When the file relating to an enquiry comes to me it is sometimes an inch thick. The District Superintendent of Police will not even be able to deal sufficiently promptly with all the complaints against station house officers

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and although some of my non-official friends may consider the investigation into the conduct of their own men made by station house officers satisfactory, that is, I am sorry to say, not my own experience.

Sir, if the Assistant Superintendents of Police were to be taken away and the department left with one Commissioner and three District Superintendents of police to supervise the work of 2,000 men, it might be better to abolish the whole police force.

One other point raised was that the District Magistrates were not consulted when the reorganisation scheme of 1097 was drawn up. I expect Mr. Nidiry will justify the action of the Salaries Committee on that point. I know nothing about the matter. The Committee did not examine me either.

Reference was also made to the cases referred to us by magistrates. Thoré is a distinct misunderstanding on that point. If a person wants to make a complaint direct to a magistrate he is at liberty to do so. If magistrates refer cases to us we are prepared to receive them, but the point of view of Government is--

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I was not allowed to develop that point.

MR W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): --that in fairness a man must be allowed to complain direct to a magistrate and not to the police if he so chooses.

Then my friend referred to the unsatisfactory class of men that were recruited as constables and head constables. For the last two years we have not recruited anybody. Before that, only men with war service were recruited. Recruitment is to be reopened shortly and if Mr. Narayana Pillai will give me the names of men who can be trusted to work without supervision I shall be pleased to entertain them. I hope Mr. Narayana Pillai will give me names as vacancies occur.

I explained last year why three Assistant Superintendents were posted at the headquarters rather than elsewhere. Reference was made to the abolition of circles in Trivandrum and Nagercoil districts and I think it was intended to be understood that we have gone back and increased the number of officers again. That is not so. Because, after these circles were abolished, there were left two D. S. P's. and one Circle Inspector who was in charge of Trivandrum town. So, after the abolition of these circles there were still three superior officers in what is now called the Trivandrum Division. Instead of two D. S. P's. and one Circle Inspector we have now one D. S. P. and two A. S. P's.

Mr. Hoogewerf referred to a certain case, which, I am sorry to say, is still undetected--in which he pointed out that there was disagreement between two superior officers. As a matter of fact, there was a lot of disagreement. I myself looked into the case. The C. I. D. Inspector tried.

All of us failed to decide what exactly the truth was and whether any offence had occurred at all.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the case had been handled well at the beginning you would not have failed in your investigation.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That might have been so. My position prevents me from giving the House full particulars of the case. This disagreement between investigating officers is, I think, a very good sign; because it shows that the officers are trying to think for themselves and to come to right conclusions instead of endorsing the views of subordinates and proceeding on them. It is only by thinking that we can come to correct conclusions.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not the present arrangement make the D. S. P. too much of a chair-and-table administrative officer?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I thought Mr. Hoogewerf was satisfied with the present arrangement, and that he agreed that an A. S. P. was required at Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My point was that except in Trivandrum the other A. S. P's. might be put in direct charge of the division and some of them done away with.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I beg Mr. Hoogewerf's pardon. I undertake to consider the question whether, instead of putting an A. S. P. as Personal Assistant, he should not be put in direct charge of a division. There is something in that point of view. I will consider the matter carefully and report to Government. But the reason why he was placed as the Personal Assistant is that, in a D. S P's. Office—I speak from my own personal experience because I was once a D. S. P. myself and I am going to be one again—there is much routine work to do. For instance, the maintenance of records of services of the various employees in the department is a big business if it is done satisfactorily. The idea in posting these headquarter A. S. P's. was to give them a share of the office work and thereby to give more freedom to the D. S. P's. to move about and attend to more important matters.

Then, last year, I gave special reasons in each of these three cases. In the case of Trivandrum, Mr. Hoogewerf has already mentioned that in the Capital we cannot do without the existing number of Police Officers. That was the reason for the appointment of the Trivandrum headquarter A. S. P.

The Salaries Committee recommended one A. S. P. for Devicolam. Government thought that it was not necessary and so he was posted to Quilon where he could attend to Devicolam and other work as well.

As regards the one at Kottayam, it was proposed to post one at Peermade, and as in the case of Devicolam it was thought better to post him at Kottayam instead of at Peermade.

[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, if two officers are in the same office, there will not be a tendency on the part of the subordinate officer to always consult his superior for each and every thing.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): That may be so.

With regard to the cost I was looking up the figures. I have examined the figures carefully and am in a position to state the cost on account of superior officers now, and that some years ago. In 1094, the amount spent as pay for these superior officers was Rs. 60,629, whereas in 1098—this is my calculation, not the Account Officer's—it is Rs. 46,825. There has been a reduction in 5 years of about Rs. 14,000 in the pay of the superior officers. During these years the pay of the station house officers and the head constables and constables has risen from Rs. 2,44,000 to Rs. 3,27,000 and the pay of the constabulary alone has risen by Rs. 60,310, the number of constables being practically the same in 1094 and 1098.

With regard to the increased cost of the department generally, the increased expenditure that we are now incurring is almost entirely due to the raising of the pay of the lower ranks and office establishments. The clerks have been placed on time scales of pay and I think they deserve any increase in the pay they are getting. With these remarks I oppose the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): After listening to Mr. Pitt I am of opinion that no case has been made out for the retention of the six Assistant Superintendents of Police. I thought that after the experience of one year Mr. Pitt would gracefully withdraw at least three Assistant Superintendents at the headquarter stations employed as Personal Assistants to the D. S. P's. I wanted to have an idea about the nature of the work that has been allotted to the A. S. P's. working as Personal Assistants and the work turned out by them; but I was not able to get from Mr. Pitt the comparative figures with respect of the duties of D. S. P's. and the Assistants who were kept in the office in the matter.

PRESIDENT: He gave you the figures in regard to the A. S. P's. You did not ask for information *re* D. S. P's.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I mean information about the total number of crimes investigated in each Division by D. S. P's, and the number investigated by the Assistant Superintendent and the proportion which that bears the to the total number. We were not able to get that figure.

At any rate, it was stated last year by Mr. Pitt that the Assistant Superintendents were primarily intended to look to the administrative side of the District Superintendent's office, to relieve the D. S. P's. so as to afford them time to go about and investigate cases, and to do more of inspection work.

Now we have to remember that after all Travancore is a small country and in these days of quick locomotion it should be possible for three D. S. P's. to go about and do inspection work.

In regard to the strength of the superior officers in the department, it was said by Mr. Pitt that in 1087 there were 43 intermediary officers and that the number has now been reduced to 10. The figure 43 is misleading. There were originally 50 Inspectors and of those 39 were in charge of divisions and 11 Inspectors were treated as station house officers. The remaining station house officers were all head constables and the conditions have now altered considerably; because we find that the station house officers of the present day are mostly young graduates, in several cases getting a salary up to Rs. 200, whereas the original station house officer was a mere head constable. Whatever may have been the conditions then existing, now that the police officers—I mean the station house officers—are mostly graduates and getting very decent salaries, it should be possible for the D. S. P's. to efficiently supervise them in the present state of affairs.

So far as these three Personal Assistants are concerned I have again to submit that the duties attached to the D. S. P's office are not so heavy as to necessitate another office in his office itself. Further the pay of the D. S. P. is Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 and that of an A. S. P, Rs. 200 to 250. For an officer on Rs. 300-400 to have a Personal Assistant on Rs. 200-250 is, I should consider, a very anomalous position. Another objection to the present arrangement is that there will be overlapping of functions and consequent conflict of duties as well. Because, oftentimes it is noticed that the D. S. P. deputes his Personal Assistant to go about the division and thus he is put in charge of the other Assistant Superintendent under the District Superintendent.

There is likely to be conflicting reports as well as overlapping of duties. I should, therefore, think that the Personal Assistants to the D. S. P's. may well be abolished and that the A. S. P's. in charge of divisions may be asked to do the duties appertaining to their legitimate portion instead of adding on to the costly establishment.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: The time for discussion of this demand is almost over. You have got only two minutes more. Do you wish to speak Mr. Nidiry?

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am of opinion that there should be a decent number of superior officers to watch and supervise the working of the station house officers and other subordinates of the Police Department. But my point is whether it is not possible to have more D. S. P's. with smaller areas and to make most of these A. S. P's. into D. S. P's. having smaller jurisdiction with more individual responsibility assigned to each D. S. P. This in my opinion will be more satisfactory.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I was listening carefully to Mr. Pitt. But the case that I made out has not been met

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by him in all its branches. With reference to the question of investigation, success in investigation depends upon a respectable acquaintance with the law of evidence. As to the question of detection, it is natural intelligence that succeeds there. In spite of highly salaried officers of the department being made to supervise the work of these officers in the lower rungs, it cannot be said that general success has attended the efforts of the department in that direction. If the Commissioner wants a decent percentage of success in the matter of investigation, he has to see that his officers are duly trained and qualified in such a way that they may have or acquire a respectable knowledge of the law of evidence to enable them to place facts before a court of law. For the detection of offences the persons selected should possess natural intelligence and shrewdness for detection. In disregard of that, if the Commissioner of Police thinks of appointing a respectable officer to supervise the work of the inefficient subordinate officers, that would not answer the purpose. I do not press for the reduction of Police Inspectors; if the requirements of the country call for the appointment of more police officers leading to further cost than is now being incurred, I would be the first man to support that idea. But the question has to be tested in all its bearings; it is for this purpose that I sent up my motion. It is this aspect of the question that I want the House to consider. I am not simply crying for the reduction of A. S. P. because he gets a fat pay. Such side questions do not weigh with one seriously. The question has to be examined upon some principle. It is the requirements of the country that have to be tested. It is not enough if A. S. P's. and D. S. P's. are planted like mile stones at regular distances. (*Laughter.*) That is not the sort of consideration we should bestow on the subject. With these submissions, I urge the motion again.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Sir, I know that I have got a very good case, but apparently I cannot represent it properly. From what I observe and know, I find the reduction in superior officers has reached the limit of danger and if more officers are taken away I repeat, what I said before, *viz.*, that it might be better to abolish the Police Department altogether.

Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the fact that the present day station house officer is a vast improvement over his predecessor and it must be so. If that were not so, Government would not have reduced the number of superior officers from 43 to 10. Of course, that was the reason why the reduction has been carriedout. What I now say is the we have reached the utmost limit of reduction. It was pointed out that the pay of the A. S. P. at the headquarters and that of the D. S. P. are very much the same; and that possibly the A. S. P. would not carry out the orders of the D. S. P. I do not think that it necessarily follows and particularly in a force so well behaved and with a sense of discipline as the Travancore Police.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): How many Assistant Superintendents are graduates and how many are non-graduates?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I forget. But I think it is three and three.

PRESIDENT: The information is in the Civil List.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): I may say that the recruiting of non-graduate Inspectors ceased from 1098, automatically in accordance with Sir P. Rajagopalachari's scheme, and that in course of time all officers will be graduates.

Then Mr. Nidiry has again referred to—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Have any of these graduates who were entertained in 1088 or subsequently become Assistant Superintendents?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): It is only 10 or 11 years ago that they were entertained—when Sir Rajagopalachari's scheme came into operation. In Travancore, promotion from Inspector to District Superintendent is more or less continuous. There has not been time for any officer entertained in 1088 to reach the rank of Assistant Superintendent.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Has any preference been shown to graduates in the matter of promotion?

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

Then the point which Mr. Nidiry raised was whether it would not be better instead of having two officers at headquarters to give them independent charges. That point will be considered again.

I oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 18 voting *for* and 23 *against*.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I demand a poll

A poll was taken with the following result:

AYES—18.

1.	Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	10.	Mr.	K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
2.	,, Paul V. Daniel.	11.	,,	P. K. Narayana Pillai.
3.	,, A. Govinda Menon.	12.	,,	M. N. Pillai.
4.	,, A. Hoogewerf.	13.	,,	N. Padmanabha Pillai.
5.	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	14.	,,	K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
6.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	15.	,,	G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
7.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	16.	,,	N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
8.	,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	17.	,,	K. P. Raman Pillai.
9.	,, M. R. Madhava Variar.	18.	,,	T. K. Velu Pillai.

[President.]

NOES—23.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
3. „ K. George.
4. „ L. C. Hodgson.
5. „ M. K. Khadir Pillai.
6. „ R. Krishna Pillai.
7. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.
8. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.
9. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
10. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
11 Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
12. Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
13. „ J. John Nidiry.
14. „ W. H. Pitt.
15. „ K. C. Raja Raja Varma.
16. „ C. Ramankunju.
17. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
18. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
19. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
20. „ V. Subba Aiyar.
21. „ S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
22. „ A. J. Van Ross.
23. Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah.

PRESIDENT: The time for the discussion of this demand having expired, I will place it before the House for voting.

Motions 255 to 262.

The following motions lapsed:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

255. To omit the allotment of Rs. 348 for establishment for Inspectors' offices.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

256. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 15,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

257. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for secret service.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

258. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for rewards.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

259. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,75,604 for District Police by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

260. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 75,000.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

261. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

262. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·33 lakhs under Demand XI by Rs. 100.

Demand XI—Police, for Rs. 5·33 lakhs *minus* Rs. 4,000, the cut which was accepted, was then put to the House and granted.

The House adjourned for lunch at 2·16 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

DEMAND XIII—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·79 lakhs under Demand XIII—Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motion 312.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

312. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,500.

Sir, it was last year that I objected to this item in the budget. Then, the Director of Agriculture explained the situation thus:

"The travelling allowance of Rs. 3,500 provided in the budget is intended for me and for my office establishment. The latter will consume about Rs. 500 leaving a balance of Rs. 3,000 to me. My trip to Lucknow will consume about Rs. 1,000 and thus there will only be a balance of Rs. 2,000 for my ordinary travelling within the State."

This will show that Dr. Kunjan Pillai was satisfied with Rs. 2,000 for his travel for one year. Now it is budgeted as Rs. 5,500, *i. e.*, an increase of Rs. 2,000 more. I cannot understand how this should be granted. Again as to the quantity of work done by the Director last year he explained it by saying:

"It is true that the 241 days which I spent on tour in 1096 included 21 days which I took for my trip to Madras to select a motor-tractor."

But the administration report of 1097 will show that the Director was in camp for 216 days only, as against 241 in 1096. This really shows that the Director as a rule is shirking work. On this score also this demand cannot be granted and the reduction should be made.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, the provision of Rs. 5,500 under travelling allowance for the coming year includes also the provision for the newly appointed Assistant Director of Agriculture. A sum of Rs. 1,000 is provided under travelling allowance to that officer. Out of the balance of Rs. 4,500 a sum of Rs. 500 is for the travelling allowance to the establishment. There remains a balance of Rs. 4,000. This year I had to go to Lucknow, and therefore an additional provision was included in the travelling allowance, over and above what would ordinarily be required for my travels in Travancore. I have to make the same remarks as those I made last year in regard to my tours next year. Ordinarily, the Board of Agriculture in India, of which I am a member, meets once in two years and this year there has been no meeting of the Board. It meets early next year. If I am to attend that meeting, I want an allotment which is more than what is required for my ordinary touring work. As for touring work, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai says that I have been shirking it. I do not know what I should say to that. I have not been shirking touring work. I have been trying to do as much touring as possible. It may be that there is a small difference in the number of days that I was in camp in 1096 and in 1097. But still,

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the fact that I was on tour for 216 days out of 365 days in the year will show that I have not been shirking touring work. I submit that this provision of Rs. 5,500 is absolutely necessary for me to do efficient touring work.

PRESIDENT: In the light of the explanation given by Dr. Kunjan Pillai, do you press this motion, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 313 to 319.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

313. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for purchase of magic lantern and slides.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

314. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for commission to agents for sale of manure by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

315 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for commission to agents for sale of manure by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

316. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for grants for the maintenance of seed-bulls by Rs. 10.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

317. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,250 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

318. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of live-stock by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

319. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,000 for maintenance of live-stock by Rs. 5,000.

Motion 320.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

320. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4 500 for seeds, manures, etc., by Rs. 100.

I remember the time when the Agricultural Department used to issue manures on loan. I understand that it was done on the responsibility of the department itself. What I wish to ascertain is whether it is not possible to issue manure, seeds, etc., on loan, just as we give agricultural loans in rupees and to get them realised in due course by the revenue authorities.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Are the loans repayable in cash?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : No, in kind. There are depôts where the manure is stored and from there it could be lent.

PRESIDENT : You want the loans to be advanced in the shape of manures. Mr. Pitt wants to know how they are repayable.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : In money. (*Laughter.*)

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) :

It is true that some years ago we tried the system of issuing manures on loan. It was tried particularly in those taluks in central Travancore where the cocoanut palm disease prevailed. The system was tried for a few years and then it had to be stopped. According to that system manures were issued by the agricultural officers; but before they were issued the applications were sent round to a small committee consisting of the *proverthicar* of the *pakuthi* and two or three influential ryots. If the committee certified that the manure applied for could be issued it was issued and the price was recovered by the Revenue authorities in instalments along with the kist. That system worked well for some time but after two or three years the Tahsildar and the *proverthicar* began to complain about the difficulty in realising the money. They found it difficult even to collect the kist and consequently most of the Tahsildars protested, and the Government accordingly abolished that system. Since then, Government have organised the Co-operative Department, and the policy that has recently been adopted is to make use of the Co-operative societies as agents for issuing manures to the ryots. I have engaged during this year about 10 co-operative societies for this purpose. The societies are supplied with manures by the Agricultural Department and they sell them to the members on their own responsibility. The societies are responsible to the Government for the price of the manures supplied to them. Government have also revised recently the Agricultural Loans Rules and special provision has been made for the issue of loans for the purchase of manures not only on property security, but also on personal security.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : How could the money be paid in accordance with the rules for the agricultural loans in order to buy manure ?

PRESIDENT : Advances are to be given in the shape of manures. In addition to the rules enabling the ryots to get advances of money for the purchase of manure, the recent rules say that the ryots could get the manures themselves.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Has the old rule been abrogated ?

PRESIDENT : No. This is supplemental.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : Has any money been lent out to agriculturists in 1098 under Agricultural Loans Rules for the purchase of manure?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : When the ryots apply for loans they definitely say in the applications

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

whether they want loans in the shape of money or manure and they also specify the depôt from which the manure is to the supplied. If the loan is sanctioned the Tahsildar issues the loan order to the depôt officer concerned and he issues the manure and communicates the fact to the Tahsildar. In regard to the question of Mr. Velu Pillai, I am sorry I am not able to answer it. The Land Revenue Department will probably be able to supply the information required by him. I have no information as regards the amount of money advanced as loan for the purchase of manure.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Is the Agricultural Department not interested in the amount of money disbursed under the Agricultural Loans Rules?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The department is greatly interested in it. But I have no information about the amount of loans advanced by the Revenue Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the new rules require the participation of the Director of Agriculture before the loan is made?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Not in all cases. When an application for manure is received by the Revenue Department, the officer sanctioning it communicates the fact to the agricultural officer, and then he issues the manure. But in certain cases where the expert opinion of the Agricultural Department is required, before the Revenue Department could decide whether the loan could be given or not, agricultural officers are consulted. This is not done in all cases and it is not necessary to do so under the rules.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I have some idea as to the quantity of manure given on loan under these new rules?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Last year, *i. e.*, in 1097, there were a number of applications, particularly from the people of South Travancore, for loans for the purchase of manures. Only five or six applications were sanctioned and manures were issued to them to the value of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400. I have already said that when the system of manure sale on credit was tried the Tahsildars complained about the difficulty in realising the cost along with the kist, and that the Government consequently abolished the system. Now, after the organisation of the Co-operative Department, the Co-operative societies are being engaged as agents for the sale of manures to the ryots and also the Agricultural Loans Rules have been revised providing better facilities for obtaining loans. But it may be urged by the non-official members that even now there are difficulties in getting loans and that very often there is considerable delay in the procedure to be gone through. As for delay, I may say that there will be delay even if Mr. Raman Pillai's suggestion to issue manures on loans is accepted. In all

these cases enquiries have to be made about the solvency of the applicants before the loans are issued, either in the shape of money or manure, and these enquiries are best conducted by the officers of the Revenue Department as they have better knowledge of the conditions of the applicants than the officers of the Agricultural Department. It is a matter for consideration, however, whether Government could not revive the old practice of issuing manures, on credit, to at least the poor cultivators who really stand in need of help. I am not in a position to say anything definitely in regard to this at present. The matter requires examination. It will be examined and whatever possible will be done.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നു വളങ്ങൾക്കു് വിതരണംചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന സംഖ്യ കേവലം അനാവശ്യവും ദുർവ്യയവുമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. ഇവിടെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളമായി ലഭിക്കുന്ന കൊഞ്ചുപൊടി, പുന്നക്കാപ്പിണ്ണാക്ക് മുതലായവയെല്ലാം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും ശേഖരിച്ചു വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇതൊട്ടും ആരംഭകാലത്തു് ഒരുവിധം ആവശ്യമായിരുന്നു എന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാം. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും കൃഷിക്കാരെ ഈ വളങ്ങളുടെ പ്രയോജനത്തെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെയും ഈ കച്ചവടം ഗവർന്മെന്റു നടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന പുന്നക്കാപ്പിണ്ണാക്കും കൊഞ്ചുപൊടിയും ശേഖരിച്ചു വിറ്റാൽ വിലകിട്ടുമെങ്കിൽ കച്ചവടം ചെയ്യാൻ ധാരാളം ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ടാകും. ഈ കച്ചവടം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുതന്നെ നടത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഇത്ര വളരെ കൊല്ലം ഈ വളം കച്ചവടം നടത്തിയിട്ടും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഈ വളം വാങ്ങാനും വില്പാനും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ സഹായം കൂടാതെ കഴിവില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. ഈ കച്ചവടവും അതിലേക്കു ഗവർന്മെന്റിനു നേരിടുന്ന വ്യയവും എന്തിനാണു നിറുത്താത്തതെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു് വളങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുന്നതിൽ അതു കിട്ടാൻ പ്രയാസമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർന്മെന്റു അതു വരുത്തേണമെന്നു വയ്ക്കാം. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു വരുത്തപ്പെടുന്നവയല്ലാതെ ഗവർന്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും യാതൊരു ഏർപ്പാടും ചെയ്യാതെ കച്ചവടക്കാർ വില്ക്കയും ആവശ്യക്കാർ വാങ്ങുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. വിശ്വാസയോഗ്യമായ വളങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ ആളുകൾ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ വില്ക്കാനും ധാരാളം ആളുകൾ കാണും. ഗവർന്മെന്റു് ഇതിലേക്ക ധനവ്യയം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതില്ല. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും വില്ക്കുന്ന വളങ്ങൾ ജനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം വാങ്ങുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതു് ഈ സമ്പ്രദായത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യകതയെ തെളിയിക്കുന്നില്ലേ എന്നു ചോദിക്കുമാ

[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

യിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും മററു കച്ചവടക്കാരെക്കാൾ വില കുറച്ചു വസ്ത്രങ്ങളും അരിമുതലായ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങളും മററും വിൽക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അവയും ധാരാളം ആളുകൾ നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ കാണും. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവയും ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്ന് വില്പന നടത്തണമെന്നില്ലല്ലൊ. ഈ വളങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകം കമ്മീഷൺ ഏജൻറന്മാരെ വച്ചും വളരെ നഷ്ടം സഹിച്ചും വിററിട്ട് യാതൊരു കാര്യവുമില്ല എന്നു മുൻ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതിൽനിന്നും വ്യക്തമാകുന്നതാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കുറേക്കൂടി പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നുതന്നെ വിചാരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷവും ഓരോ കൃഷിഇൻസ്പെക്ടരുടെയും ആഫീസോടു ചേർത്ത് കുറെ വളം ശേഖരിച്ചു വിററാൽ മതി. അതിനു കമ്മീഷൻ ആവശ്യമില്ല. കൃഷിഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ വലിയ ജോലി ഇല്ല. കൃഷിക്കാർ ആവശ്യകാലങ്ങളിലെപ്പോഴും ഇവരുടെ ഉപദേശങ്ങൾ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനായി കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇവരെ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ വളം വിൽക്കാൻ ഇവക്കു സൌകര്യമുണ്ട്. കൃഷിക്കാർ വളരെ അന്വേഷണബുദ്ധിയുള്ളവരാകയാൽ വളം കിട്ടുന്നിടത്തു ചെന്നു വാങ്ങുവാനും അവക്കു നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ടു വളം വകയ്ക്കുള്ള ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ് എന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there is considerable difficulty for people to avail themselves of the facilities provided by Government for securing agricultural loans. I desire to submit for the consideration of Government and the department the need for adopting a more simplified method of disbursing loans and realising the amount. It may not be impossible for us to adumbrate a simplified scheme. Now, people are frightened away by the elaborate processes which they have to go through before they secure a loan; and there is a general impression that it is not all people that can secure loans. I have heard of a progressive country where officers go about with cash in their hand and press agricultural loans upon the people. I do not know whether the agricultural loans given here are made in consultation with the department and whether they are used for definite agricultural improvements.

PRESIDENT: We are not discussing the general policy of agricultural loans. We are only discussing the loan of manures.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): In the case of manures too, I want to know whether any simplified form of issuing manures may not be devised. I think the idea of

distributing manure through Co-operative Societies is a move in the right direction. But it will take a pretty long time before such an arrangement will become popular throughout the country. I sumbit that it will be desirable to distribute manure by some simplified method.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I regret I have to join issue with my friend Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman in his statement, (*hear, hear*) that the Agricultural Department need not take upon itself the responsibility for distributing manure to the ryots in Travancore. Mr. Kunjitomman seems to be of opinion that the ryots in Travancore have advanced sufficiently and know sufficiently the value of manure and that therefore private agencies will arise and they will be in a position to undertake the supply and distribution of manure. But I can say from actual experience that the ideas of the advantages arising from the use of improved and scientific manures have not filtered down to the up-country masses. The department has to go to the villages, to the actual cultivators, and induce them, preach to them and get them to learn the value of manures. Thus they can bring to the ryot's door the value of manure. We have not sufficiently advanced to dispense with the need for the agency of the Agricultural Departn ent in this matter. I know that, near the seacoast, where sardines, prawn-skins etc., are available, possibly some people may be utilising them. But it has not sufficiently advanced into the interior. The Agricultural Department is not content with local manures but tries to give scientific manure and give the people an idea of how they are to be utilised. No doubt, Mr. Kunjitomman's principle that the State should not enter into competition with private merchants is all right. But no private concern has risen to collect or distribute necessary manure to the ryots. This is a very important matter and on it depends the progress and prosperity of the Agricultural Department. Not only that. I wish very much that the amount allotted had been Rs. 10,000 and would have been pleased, if Rs. 50,000 had been asked for.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I have nothing to add.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Mr. Kunjitomman raised the question——

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുന്നതു മലയാളത്തിലായാൽ എനിക്കു് എളുപ്പം മനസ്സിലാകും.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that, under the rules, it is not possible to do so.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മിസ്റ്റർ ധനകോടിപ്പിള്ള മലയാളത്തിൽ സംസാരിച്ചതുപോലെ അനുവദിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ നന്നായിരിക്കും.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I point out that it is not necessary in the present instance because Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman is not the mover?

PRESIDENT: Yes. The member can avail himself of the services of the translator.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഗവൎമ്മെൻറു ട്രാൻസ്ലേറററെക്കൊണ്ടു വലിയ ഗുണം ഒന്നുമില്ല.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I point out that Mr. Kunjitomman has raised the general question the members should speak in Malayalam in order that he may vote.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I must refuse Mr. Kunjitomman's request.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Mr. Kunjitomman raised the question as to whether it is the duty of the Agricultural Department to store and sell manures to the ryots. My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar has answered that point. All that I wish to add is that, for some time to come, it should continue to be the duty of the department to do this business. In order to popularise manures the department not only maintains depôts and sells manures but also distributes them free. Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman himself is aware of the fact that demonstrations are being conducted at different places for which manures are given free. The object of doing this is only to make the ryots interest themselves in these manures, and as Mr. Krishna Aiyar pointed out it will take some time before these new ideas filter down to the masses.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): What is the practice elsewhere?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) Everywhere else the practice is the same. If you go through the budget of any Agricultural Department, you will find that there is provision for the sale of manures to the ryots. The Agricultural Department was organised in Madras and other Provinces before the department came into existence in Travancore and there the department is conducting the sale of manures even now. Of course, I admit that the goal to be kept in view is what Mr. Kunjitomman has suggested. The department should gradually transfer the business to private agencies and ultimately withdraw from the field. And this is what we are trying to do now. We are engaging individuals, Co-operative Societies and other bodies for the sale of manures and are giving them a small commission as an inducement to take up the work.

MR. TARIATU KUJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എത്ര കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വളംവില്ക്കുന്ന ഏൎപ്പാട ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറു വിട്ടുകളയും ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): അല്ല് [illegible] പറയാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. മററു രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പതിനഞ്ചും ഇരുപതും കൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടും ഈ സ്റ്റേപ്പ്ട് നടപ്പിലിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നമുക്കാകട്ടെ വളങ്ങളുടെ ഗുണത്തെപ്പററി ശരിയായ അറിവുണ്ടാകുന്നതുവരെ [illegible] കൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണമെന്നാണ് തോന്നുന്നത്.

Then again another point raised by Mr Kunjitomman is that the department is only selling prawn-skin fish guano, punnac and other local manures. This is incorrect. The department is, as a matter of fact, importing manures from outside, and popularising them, particularly concentrated manures like nitrolim. I am sure that people like Mr. Kunjitomman will find it more convenient and cheaper to use these manures in their localities. There will be considerable saving in transport charges. Mr. Krishna Aiyar pleaded for a larger allotment for the purchase and sale of manures. I may tell him that the particular allotment under consideration is for the purchase of manure for use on demonstration farms and that there is another allotment of Rs. 30,000 under Debt Heads for the purchase of manures to be sold to ryots. Government, I am sure, will be willing to enhance this allotment if they find it necessary to do so.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 321.

MR. V. KUNJU KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

321. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for cost of experiments on ryots' lands.

Sir, it was last year, in the budget discussion, that we heard opposition from all sides against using the word ryot. We remember that it was Dr. Kunjan Pillai, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, who introduced the word and it was once for all decided by this Council not to use that term and that instead of that the term land-owner should be used. Now again, Dr. Kunjan Pillai uses that term in the Budget. It was not at all right on his part to use the term and he is estopped from using the word in the Council and it is a case of *res judicata* to reopen it. I hope Dr. Kunjan Pillai will bear in mind not to use the term hereafter in this House.

Now coming to the subject of experiments and demonstrations, it has been repeatedly said in this House during the last session as well as this session in the course of the general discussion, that these so-called experiments are not of much use to the public. I am at a loss to know whether the Director has any experiments to introduce any new kind of cultivation in Travancore. He says:

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

"Of course I have not attempted in introducing in Travancore wheat, barley, etc, and crops that grow in cold climates."

Is he not aware of the fact that wheat, chilly and other produce. we have in India in abundance? I may say that the above passage, the Director expressed in this session, is an evasive one and he said it shutting his eyes. Because, it is a fact that wheat and chilly cultivation is carried on by private bodies in north Travancore. My friend Mr. Dominic Tomman was telling me that chilly cultivation in Travancore is a profitable one. Wheat cultivation also is going on. Experiments on cocoanut cultivation are not at all satisfactory. So this amount is not of much use for the good of the public and it should be reduced.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I said a little while ago that the department has been, and is even now, distributing manures free in order to induce the ryots to take interest in them. The department is also carrying on a number of demonstrations at different centres. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has repeated the remarks which he made in the course of his speech during the general discussion of the budget, *viz.*, that these demonstrations are not producing satisfactory results. In my reply, I told him that, if he had only read my annual reports, he would have found—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I speak from experience and not by studying books. We are the representatives of the people and we have got to express the opinion of the public. I speak from practical knowledge.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know—

PRESIDENT: Dr. Kunjan Pillai has not answered Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There is nothing to answer.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It is not possible for the department to see that every gentleman in this country gets practical experience of the work that is being done by the department. It is conducting experiments and demonstrations and those who see them or read the reports thereon can know the results.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know on which lines he is conducting these experiments and what particular crops he is demonstrating with Rs. 2,500?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have, for instance, conducted 31 demonstrations on paddy, comprising an area of 50 acres during the current year. I have in central Travancore—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether any experiments or demonstrations are being carried on in respect of the *Kari* lands at Thottapalli?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The so-called *Kari* lands have to be investigated. The composition of the soil has to be carefully studied. We have deputed our chief Agricultural Chemist to Pusa to be trained in agricultural bacteriology. The problem to be solved in the case of the *Kari* lands is more biological than chemical; and I hope that when the chemist comes back in a few months he will be in a position to tackle this problem.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will this allotment be enough for that also?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No, it is not enough. The investigation has to be carried out first in the laboratory and only afterwards can field experiments be conducted, when more money will be required.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കോട്ടയത്തിന വടക്കുഭാഗം വല്ല താലൂക്കുകളിലും പരീക്ഷണംനടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): ഉണ്ട്. മൂവാററുപുഴ താലൂക്കിൽതന്നെയുണ്ട്.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. May I ask whether it is permissible for any member who has been speaking in English up to this, and who knows to speak in English, to speak in Malayalam or Tamil?

PRESIDENT: The correct ruling is that he cannot. But it will lead to practical inconvenience. All of us know Malayalam and, I think therefore the answer may be given in Malayalam.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) Am I to take it that the practice refers only to questions being asked?

PRESIDENT: Yes, only to that.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): As I already said, if Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai cares to read my annual reports, he will find therein the results of the demonstrations conducted on paddy in 1097, in a tabular form. He will see that by spending about Rs. 7 more per acre on manures, an increase in the average yield to the value of Rs. 24 has been obtained. This is the result of the demonstrations conducted on ryots' lands.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Again he uses the word 'ryots.'

PRESIDENT: You will have to omit that term, Dr. Kunjan Pillai.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I think that the non-official members also were using it.

[Dr. N Kunjan Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: You will have to omit it.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I shall do so, Sir. From the demonstrations conducted on lands belonging to private gentlemen, I find that the increased yield comes to Rs. 24 per acre.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I want to know whether it is at the instance of the private gentlemen that these demonstrations are carried on.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes. Any number of applications come to me and they are sent to the Inspectors. They inspect the lands, and report on which of them demonstrations should be conducted.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Does not the department recover the cost?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The cost of the manures issued under the provision, which is the subject matter of the present discussion, is not realised from the owners of lands. I have got a separate provision for that purpose.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കുടികളുടെ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരീക്ഷണം നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവു മുഴുവൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നാണോ വഹിക്കുന്നത്, അതല്ല കുടികൾകൂടി വഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): വളം മാത്രമേ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നു കൊടുക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ബാക്കിയുള്ള ചിലവു മുഴുവൻ കുടികൾ തന്നെ വഹിക്കുന്നു.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Karthikapalli*): May I know if this Rs. 2,500 goes only for the cultivation of paddy and not for any other?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not finished my answer to Mr. Krishna Iyer's original question. The department has conducted this year thirty-one demonstrations on paddy, eight on cocoanut, three on ginger, five on tapioca, one on banana, and one on *chenai*.

Regarding Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's remarks that new crops have not been introduced, I have only to repeat what I said in the course of the general discussion of the budget. It may be possible to find out new crops which could be introduced here, but in experimenting on new crops, we must see that we select crops from countries where conditions similar to those obtaining here prevail. What I said in the course of the general discussion was that there was no use in attempting to grow

crops which will not grow here. My own personal experience is that there is not much scope here for the development of cultivation of wheat and similar exotics. The department, instead of wasting its energy on the cultivation of wheat and other exotics, should concentrate attention on the improvement of the existing crops.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഇതുവരെ ചില ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കയായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ പ്രമേയം സംബന്ധിച്ചു രണ്ടു മിനിട്ടു സംസാരിക്കുവാൻ എനിക്കുള്ള അവസരം ഉപയോഗിക്കയാണ്. എല്ലാ താലൂക്കിൽ ആരുടെ എല്ലാം സ്ഥലത്ത് പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നു എന്നും ഓരോന്നിനും എന്തു ചിലവുവരുന്നു എന്നും ഞാൻ മുമ്പ് കൌൺസിലിലേക്ക് അയച്ചിരുന്ന ചോദ്യത്തിന് ഇതുവരെ മറുപടി കിട്ടീട്ടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ അതിന്റെ ഗുണദോഷങ്ങളെപ്പററി യഥാർത്ഥം വ്യക്തമായി പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും സാമാന്യേന ഈ സമ്പ്രദായം ഒരു ദുരാചാരമാണെന്നാണു പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): പൊതുജനങ്ങളാരാണ്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പബ്ലിക്ക്; എന്നെപ്പോലെയുള്ളവരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തയച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾ.

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെപ്പററി ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ പ്രതിവാദിക്കണമെന്ന അവിടത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരായ ജനങ്ങൾ എന്നോട പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): എത്ര താലൂക്കുകളിലെ ജനങ്ങളാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞുതൊമ്മനോട് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മൂവാററുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാട് മുതലായ പല താലൂക്കുകളിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. എത്ര ആളുകളാണെന്നു നിശ്ചയമില്ല.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): എണ്ണം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടില്ല.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ തന്നെ ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരനാണ്. കൃഷിക്കാരായ അനേകം ആളുകൾ എന്നോടു സംസാരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട. ഗവർമെന്റ് ഇപ്പോൾ വല്ലവരുടേയും സ്ഥലത്തു പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പല അസൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഉണ്ട്. പല താലൂക്കുകളിലായി കുറേറ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പാട്ടത്തിനേടുത്തോ വില

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

ശ്ശ വാങ്ങിയോ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആൎക്കും ചെന്നു നോക്കുന്നതിനും പഠിക്കുന്നതിനും കൂടുതൽ സൌകൎയ്യം ഉണ്ടാകും. ഈ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നോക്കാൻ ഗവൎമ്മെന്റുവക തരിശുഭൂമികൾതന്നെ പല സ്ഥലത്തും ഉണ്ട്. അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം എട്ടോ പത്തോ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ചുരുങ്ങിയ പാട്ടത്തിന് എവിടേയും കിട്ടും. കുടികളുടെ സ്ഥലത്തു നടത്തുന്ന ഈ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ ഒരു ദുർവ്യയമാണെന്നും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഒരു ബോധം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ സമ്പ്രദായം നിറുത്തിക്കളയണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കൌൺസിലിനോടറിയിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I move that the question be now put.

PRESIDENT: Does the House agree to a closure of this debate?

The motion for closure was put and carried.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I have nothing more to say.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I have already answered the points raised by Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman. He thinks that the Government should open and maintain more farms. This is more expensive than conducting demonstrations on private lands.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Dr. Kunjan Pillai if it will not be more efficient if the farms are maintained by the Government.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Efficient it may be, but it will be more expensive. Now-a-days when everybody is crying against the increase in expenditure, I do not think it will be advisable to increase the number of Government farms. The results obtained from departmental demonstration farms will not be more convincing than those obtained from the demonstrations conducted on ryots' lands—excuse me Sir - on private gentlemen's lands.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask whether proper facilities are being given to the public to inspect these private holdings where these experiments are tried.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes. Every possible facility is given to the public to see these demonstrations.

PRESIDENT: Do you put up notice boards?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes, we do put up notice boards; and where it is not done, I shall see that it is done hereafter.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the owner of the land has got the legal right to exclude any man who enters his place for inspecting the experiment.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I do not know the legal aspect of it. But, so far, nobody has been prevented from seeing these demonstrations on private lands.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): In case the ryots' lands

PRESIDENT: Do not use the word 'ryots', please.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg the House's pardon.

In respect of cultivators' lands, if cultivators apply that their lands may be taken up for demonstration and experimental purposes and are prepared to defray the cost, would those people get preference?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Certainly. If people, agree to do so, I will surely give preference to them.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I will at this stage withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 322 to 325.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

322. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for construction of buildings by Rs. 1,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

323. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for the construction of buildings by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

324. To omit the allotment of Rs. 8,740 for conversion of lands into paddy and demonstration farms.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

325. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,740 for conversion of lands into paddy and demonstration farms by Rs. 100.

Motion 326.

PRESIDENT: There are two identical motions, one in the name of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai and the other in the name of Mr. Krishna Aiyar. May I take it that Mr. Krishna Aiyar moves it?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Mr. Krishna Aiyar may move it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to make the following motion:

326. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for land acquisition charges.

[MR. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

In respect of land acquisition charges, I see from the foot-notes in the budget that the charges are intended for a demonstration farm at Ettumanur. I further understand that the demonstration intended is of ginger. Ginger requires open heaths and sterile lands as at Ettumanur. A year after these experiments and demonstrations, the lands will have to be given up. I understand, that the idea of Dr. Kunjan Pillai may be either to try new species or to try to evolve a new type of ginger. After the evolution or the development has been perfected—and it may be done in a few years—the land will have to be sold out. Land need not be acquired at such a cost for this purpose. I am therefore submitting that it will be much easier to get lands on rent for a number of years, say for six years, and if the Director says it is not sufficient, for 12 years.

PRESIDENT: You will have to put up buildings and so on.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): For ginger farms I cannot think of the necessity of buildings, unless it be for the storage of manure. And such buildings do not cost anything appreciable. And the cost of experimenting will not be very high unless new species are sought to be introduced. Even then, small sheds would be enough. It will not be very costly and Rs. 4,000 need not be spent for that purpose. I was glad to see that Dr. Kunjan Pillai was urging the necessity for economy with reference to the last motion. Therefore it would only be in keeping with what he said on the last occasion and in keeping with the necessary conditions that he accepts the cut. If he needs lands, I may assure him that he may be able to procure lands on a favourable rent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am in favour of Mr. Krishna Aiyar's motion. There seems to be what is called inconsistent pleas in law. Dr. Kunjan Pillai was satisfied that, if the Government got possession of landowners' lands, it will be cheaper for the people. If that is a fact, I am sure that in those places in a taluk where the land is sought to be acquired there are any number of enterprising men who will be glad to place their lands at the disposal of the Agricultural Department. Depending on the reasoning of Dr. Kunjan Pillai I give my support to Mr. Krishna Aiyar.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, the farm proposed to be opened at Ettumanur is intended for the investigation of the various problems connected with the cultivation of ginger. Ginger, as you all know, is an important article of export. We are exporting more than 10 lakhs of rupees' worth of ginger every year. Of late, a very serious insect pest has been destroying this crop and it is calculated that not less than 20 per cent. of the crops is lost on account of this pest.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know the extent of land that Dr. Kunjan Pillai proposes to acquire for Rs. 4,000?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It is about 12 to 15 acres. Ginger does not require a very fertile land.

MR. T. K VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Dr. Kunjan Pillai whether the department cannot get lands on lease for a number of years.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am coming to that question. The problem of ginger cultivation has to be tackled from various standpoints. Mr. Krishna Aiyar referred to different species of ginger. There are several species and they have to be imported and experimented upon locally.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know where new species are available?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I believe they are in Java and other countries. There are new varieties to be tried and the existing varieties have to be improved. The question of manuring ginger is a very important one. Ginger requires a lot of manure. The present practice is to apply cattle manure only. It has to be ascertained whether it will not be possible—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Cannot many of these experiments be carried on in his own laboratories?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Manurial experiments?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Not manuring, I am asking with respect to the pest.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The life-history of the pest can be studied in the laboratory, but not the remedial measures. Travancore is now getting about ten lakhs of rupees a year by the export of ginger, and Government would be justified in spending some money to find out the means, if any, of adding to this income of the country. The question is, could not the experiments be conducted on private lands? I am not in a position to say how long these experiments should continue.

MR. J. JOHN NIDHRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Are there not Sirkar lands available in the taluk?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Near Ettumanur no Sirkar lands are available.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Would lands at Kurichi do?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I do not know that. I must see the lands before I could answer that question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): What is the average life of the ginger plant? For how many years will the ginger, once planted, live?

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It lives for about six months, from Edavam to Tulam.

Then, Sir, these experiments have to be continued for a long period, and it is doubtful whether any private gentleman will be willing to place his lands at the disposal of the Government for a long period on terms to be agreed upon at present. In Eraniel we have started a small demonstration farm for which we have taken lands on lease for 12 years, but on this condition, *viz.*, that at the end of the period the lands should be returned to the owner without any compensation for the improvements made thereon. We have sunk a well there, constructed buildings, converted dry lands into wet. All these we have done and we are to get no compensation for the same. If private lands are taken on lease the owner will insist upon such impossible conditions. If the lands are required only for a few years—say two or three years or even five years—it may be possible to come to some terms with the owner, but if it is for a long period it will not be possible to get them on terms favourable to Government.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he has tried to see whether lands for certain terms are available on rent.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not tried, but I speak from my own experience.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai assures that lands are available, and that he will use his influence to get lands for the benefit of the department.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I must say that the land he speaks of---

PRESIDENT: The period is more important.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Long terms can be obtained.

PRESIDENT: What about the rent? The land is required for 30 years. You have to carry on experiments for many years to evolve better schemes to destroy pests.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Mr. Narayana Pillai may lease out his lands to Government for a nominal rent now, but I doubt whether he will agree to do so for a period of 20 years and more.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I want to know whether continuity of cultivation in the same land is absolutely necessary.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes. It is necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have not finished my question. I do not know how he is able to answer me. (*Laughter.*) In a crop like ginger, which my friend has admitted will grow for six months, is there a need for any permanent place? For example, if it is the jack tree or cocoanut tree, I quite understand the Director's opinion. My question is whether you should have the land for 12 years, considering the fact that the experiments may be shifted from one land to another.

PRESIDENT: You should remove the bacteria from the soil. If the experiments are shifted from one place to another we will have first of all to remove the bacteria in those places.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): If an experiment is started with different kinds of manures at one place it must be continued there for a sufficiently long period to obtain reliable results before it is shifted to another place. Until reliable results are obtained it is not desirable to shift experiments from place to place. I may be allowed to point out that non-official members do not realise the distinction between experiments and demonstrations. Demonstrations can be shifted from place to place but not experiments. It will be rather difficult to get lands on lease on favourable terms for a long period for experimental purposes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I beg to be excused. My point is this. Suppose Dr. Kunjan Pillai tries two chemicals in a particular land. These two chemicals after having been tried during two years are found useless. He tries another chemical. How is it possible to find out the relative proportion? That is my point. Is it not therefore better to conduct experiments in different isolated plots of land?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No, Sir. In the case of manurial experiments all possible manures must be tried side by side. There is absolutely no use in carrying on experiments with one manure this year and with another next year. Different manures must be tried for a particular crop on different plots at the same time and such an experiment must continue for a sufficiently long period in order to get reliable results.

I have no objection to taking lands on lease if they are suitable to my purpose and if they can be had for a sufficiently long period on terms to be settled now. From my experience at Eraniel I must say that it is cheaper to acquire lands than to take them on lease for conducting experiments.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know then, what time Dr. Kunjan Pillai wants in order to see what lands are favourable, and for what period he wants to take up the lands if they are favourable, against Rs. 4,000?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I must first of all find out whether there are lands suited to my purpose.

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How long will it take?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I must go round and inspect different sites.

PRESIDENT: The provision is only an enabling one.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there not Government lands available? I hear that there are somewhere near Ettumanur about 300 acres of reserved forests.

PRESIDENT: We cannot cut up reserves. The Conservator of Forests will have to be consulted.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I say, Sir, that if there are gentlemen willing to lease out lands on terms favourable to Government for a sufficiently long period I have no objection to take them on lease.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): What kind of lands do you require, wet or dry?

PRESIDENT: We are dealing with dry lands only. (*Laughter.*) Ginger can be cultivated only on dry lands.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Dr. Kunjan Pillai will stop with asking the members of this House alone or extend the enquiry outside the Council also?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I will certainly consult gentlemen outside the Council also.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Now the principle is recognised by Dr. Kunjan Pillai. May I know whether he expects any of us, or whether he is prepared, to enquire outside the Council?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I will surely make enquiries outside the Council.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he will put the question to Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai as to whether ten acres of Vedagiri reserve may not be available?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Yes, I will do so. But if I am not able to get suitable lands from private gentlemen or from the reserve, lands have to be acquired to start the farm. It must also be remembered that this provision of Rs. 4,000 is only a repetition. There is the same provision in the budget for the current year, and it lapses because of the delay that took place in acquiring lands. I may assure the Council that the money will be utilised only if it is found necessary to acquire lands.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): As to this particular motion, I have great pleasure to support it. What Dr. Kunjan

Pillai wants is to take a leap in the dark. First of all, he has not ascertained whether Government lands are not available.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No, Sir. I have ascertained. Near Ettumanur no Government lands are available.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Probably he means by Ettumanur the Ettumanur temple. (*Laughter.*)

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No. I mean the whole taluk of Ettumanur.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, he cannot be correct. Secondly, with respect to ginger, he is not on firm ground. Probably it may be by experimenting upon ginger, say on a small scale all that he has to achieve may be achieved. Again, we may doubt whether continuous experiment for about 30 or 40 years will have necessarily to be carried on in this matter. Such a case is not made out. It is also possible, say by applying sulphuric acid or potassium chloride (*laughter*), within one year satisfactory results may be reached. The necessity for it ceases. Viewing the question in that light also, a modest beginning need alone be made. Then, as to the availability of land at Ettumanur, my own experience is that land of the heath description may be had in heaps in that taluk. A long time lease may be had at Ettumanur and we shall all try our influences, little as they are, with various land-holders in Ettumanur and try to accommodate the Agricultural Department. Before making such modest attempts, do not ask the tax payer to pay Rs.4,000 in order to buy about 10 or 12 acres of grounds. As Dr. Kunjan Pillai seems to be of opinion, he is not proceeding upon ascertained grounds. So, I would very strongly support the motion and even the pious wish of Dr. Kunjan Pillai that it may be allowed to hang on the budget page, without being attempted to be carried out, even that, I say, cannot be allowed since it is opposed to all principles to allow an allotment without knowing what we are going to do with it. If, as a matter of fact we are not going to succeed, it will be time enough for Dr. Kunjan Pillai to come up with the proposal again and it will be certainly our duty to allow the thing.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In any case, Dr. Kunjan Pillai himself says that the experiment is not to be shifted, but is to be performed from area to area and from time to time in one particular plot of land. I am supporting the motion in that, because I am not at all satisfied as to why he wants 10 or 15 acres of land. He can commence his experiment upon a small plot of land like an acre or two and if necessary extend it further. From what I hear from him, I do not think any very large area is necessary as to the performance of experiments in a farm.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): I also want to put in a word in support of the motion. I hail from the taluk, which unfortunately has been abolished recently, *viz.*, Ettumanur

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

(*laughter*,) and so far as my experience goes, I am sure that there are available Sirkar lands which may be conveniently used for this purpose—the Vedagiri reserve as it is called, I understand, is to be registered because it is not a proper forest reserve at all. The kind of land which has been described by Mr. Krishna Aiyar as suitable for cultivation of ginger is just the sort of land we find in the Vedagiri reserve and some small bits out of it could be conveniently sliced and made use of by the department. So, I am also of opinion that no further money need be spent upon purchasing land.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): If Dr. Kunjan Pillai has no objection to demonstrate this ginger farm at Alwaye, I am prepared to give 10 or 15 acres of land for 5 or 6 years without any rent.

PRESIDENT: Only for five or six years?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): For ginger only.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): May I know if Dr. Kunjan Pillai will try Mr. Krishna Aiyar's suggestions before he comes to a conclusion?

PRESIDENT: He has already said that he could not sell.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): When two or three put their heads together it ought not to be difficult to arrange matters. It is an undertaking that he would sell this place and if favourable terms could be obtained, surely he would not be able to inform the members.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I would like to know, for recording my vote, whether, in any case, the farm will be located in Ettumanur or not?

PRESIDENT: In Ettumanur town?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): What I want to know is whether the ginger farm will be located in Ettumanur in any event, *i. e.*, whether land is acquired or lease is taken. I am personally interested in this matter as Ettumanur is my constituency. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): All of us are interested in Ettumanur. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It has been brought to the notice of the House now, that a good site for the cultivation of ginger is available from Sirkar land itself. For example, there are open heaths at Kurichi and I believe for ginger more than two or three inches—

PRESIDENT: Kurichi is near Changanachery.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): It is open heath land.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I do not think that land will suit.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Mr. Nidiry points out that Ettumanur must be the centre for all time to come. But the lands at Ettumanur and the lands at Kurichi do not differ from an agricultural point of view. I have travelled and I know the lands very well. Then, it has also been brought to the notice of the House—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I wish to know whether he has got land in or near Kurichi?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I have land near Kurichi myself and Government have also land available there.

It has been brought to the notice of the House that there is an isolated bit of reserve land which by courtesy might be called forest *i. e.*, Vedagiri, which would not affect in any way the operations of the Forest Department. The nearest reserve may be at a distance of 6 to 20 miles. If it comes to that, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will give plenty of lands. Then the large sum provided for the purpose of purchasing lands may be used for the purpose of experimenting upon them. Dr. Kunjan Pillai says the experiment has to be demonstrated in about 10 to 12 acres. But to us, lay people who are not experts, it does not seem necessary. In two acres of land the necessary experiments may be performed and that would be more compact and more capable of inspection.

PRESIDENT: You cannot put up buildings on two acres of land and then conduct the experiments also.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I suggested in the course of my speech that the buildings that may be necessary are only small huts or sheds for storing chemicals and that they will not cost much. And I would ask Dr. Kunjan Pillai to tell us whether any more buildings are necessary for the purpose. In all these circumstances, these Rs. 4,000 would be a wastage from any point of view.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I have already explained the necessity of continuing experiments for a long series of years. The question has been raised by Mr. Krishna Aiyar whether it is necessary to have such a large area as 12 to 15 acres. I must say that it is necessary because several experiments have to be conducted for which a number of plots are required. It is an acknowledged fact that in the case of all experiments each plot should be at least half an acre. Nothing less than that will give reliable results. I think that, for all the experiments I have in centemplation, an area of 12 to 15 acres is necessary.

Then, regarding the question of leasing private lands, I may say that, if any private gentleman is willing to offer lands on reasonable terms for a sufficiently long period on terms to be agreed upon at present, the offer will certainly be considered. But there is this aspect of the question also to be taken into consideration, *viz.*, that even on private lands

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

taken on lease, Government will have to spend money on buildings and other improvements. The question will, naturally, arise whether the owner of the land will pay any compensation for improvements to Government when the land goes back to him. All these are matters for careful consideration. My own idea is that it is better, on the whole, for Government to acquire lands for a fairly nominal price than to take them on lease. At present, it will cost about Rs. 300 per acre, and later on if Government decide to close the farm they can certainly sell the land at a profit. I shall consult the members of this Council as well as other gentlemen before I utilise the money for acquiring lands. If the House is not satisfied with the explanation I have given, personally I have no objection to accept the cut.

PRESIDENT: You have said nothing about buildings.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Quarters must be constructed for the staff, and sheds for cattle and fencing will have to be put up.

PRESIDENT: The Director accepts the cut; and so I think we may pass on.

Motions 327 to 329.

The following motions were not made :—

MR. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

327. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for land acquisition charges.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

328. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for petty construction and repairs by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

329. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for wages to coolies by Rs. 500.

Motion 330.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

330. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,048 for establishment by Rs. 10.

കന്നുകാലികളുടെ ചികിത്സയ്ക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള Veterinary ആശുപത്രികൾകൊണ്ടു മതിയാകുന്നതല്ലാ. തെക്കൻ ഡിവിഷനെ നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ നാഗർകോവിൽ, കുഴിത്തുറ ഈ രണ്ടു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണ് ഇപ്പോഴും മൃഗ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉള്ളത്. അതിനു സമീപമുള്ള ആളുകൾക്ക് അവയെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുമെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇടനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്താൻ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇടനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളും നാഗർകോവിൽ, കുഴിത്തുറ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വന്ന് അവിടത്തെ

മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസറന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനും ചികിത്സിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും അവരുടെ ധനാദായസ്ഥിതി അവരെ അനുവദിക്കുന്നതല്ല. കൂടുതൽ മൃഗവൈദ്യശാസ്ത്രികൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതായാൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവായി തീരുന്നതാണ്. അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നില്ലാ. ചികിത്സയെപ്പററി നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ കന്നുകാലികൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന പല സുഖക്കേടുകൾക്കും ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ചികിത്സ ഫലപ്രദമായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതിലേക്ക് ഒരു പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗമായി കാണുന്നതു നാട്ടുചികിത്സക്കാർക്ക് ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുത്ത് അവരെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ആയുർവേദചികിത്സയെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ചു വരുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പല സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഗുണങ്ങളും ഉള്ളതാണ്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ചികിത്സയിൽ ഭേദപ്പെടാത്ത പല സുഖക്കേടുകളും ആയുർവേദചികിത്സയിൽ ഭേദപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നതുപോലെ മൃഗചികിത്സയിൽ അനേകരോഗങ്ങൾ നാട്ടുചികിത്സയിൽ ഭേദപ്പെട്ടുവരുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. മൃഗചികിത്സ പൂർവ്വകാലം മുതൽ ഓരോ കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ പരമ്പരയായി അതിലെ അംഗങ്ങൾ പഠിച്ചും പരിശീലിച്ചുംപോരുന്ന ഉദാഹരണങ്ങൾ എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ കാലത്ത് ആ ചികിത്സയെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം കാലക്രമംകൊണ്ട് അതു നശിച്ചുപോകുവാൻ ഇടയുള്ളതാണ്. കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിൽ ആററൂർ പകുതിയിൽ ചുവരക്കോട്ടു എന്ന സ്ഥലത്ത് ഒരു കുടുംബക്കാർ ഈ ചികിത്സ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുപോലെ മററൊരു കുടുംബം ഇരണിയൽ താലൂക്കിലുള്ളതായും എനിക്കറിയാം. കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ചുവരക്കോട്ടു വൈദ്യനെയും അയാളുടെ ചികിത്സാരീതിയുംപററി എനിക്കു അനുഭവത്താൽ ധാരാളം അറിവുള്ളതാണ്. ഈയാൾ കൽക്കുളം താലൂക്കിലും Veterinary ആസ്പത്രിയിരിക്കുന്ന വിളവംകോട്ടു താലൂക്കിലും ധാരാളം ചികിത്സകൾ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്നു. ഈ വൈദ്യനെ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുംപോലും പലരും വരുത്തി ചികിത്സിപ്പിച്ചു വരുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ മൃഗചികിത്സ ധാരാളം പ്രചാരത്തോടുകൂടി നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ആളെ നല്ല ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടത് കൃഷിക്കാർക്കുള്ള കന്നുകാലികളുടെ രക്ഷക്ക് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

നാട്ടുചികിത്സകാർക്ക് ഗ്രാൻറ് കൊടുത്തുതുടങ്ങുമ്പോൾ ഇതിനെ ഒരു സൌകര്യമായി കരുതി പലരും അപേക്ഷിച്ചുതുടങ്ങുമെന്നും അതിൽ നല്ല ചികിത്സക്കാരെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കാൻ വിഷമമു

[President.]

ണ്ടാകുമെന്നും ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ള സമാധാനം പറയുമായിരിക്കാം. ഗോചികിത്സയിൽ നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഗുണത്തെ വിചാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവർക്കു ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ ഉള്ള വിഷമതകളെ പരിഹരിക്കത്തക്കസ്ഥിതിയിൽ അതിലേക്കു റൂൾസ് ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതുമാത്രമല്ല, ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ളയുടെ സർക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ചെല്ലുമ്പോൾ അവിടത്തെ മൃഗവൈദ്യന്മാരുടെ യോഗ്യതകളെപ്പററി അറിയാൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുവല്ലാത്ത അതിലുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെ കരുതി ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതായാൽ നാട്ടുകാർ പഠിച്ചും പരിശീലിച്ചും പോരുന്ന മൃഗചികിത്സ നാമാവശേഷമായ്ത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ കൌൺസിലിൻെറ അനുകൂലമായ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): In supporting the motion, I also think that something better has to be done by the Veterinary Department. I got communications signed by several persons in and around Kayankulam that they stand in need of better aid in this matter. I have already brought that fact to the notice of Dr. Kunjan Pillai, and so I do not wish to speak anything more.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I have to speak a few words in support of Mr. Kumara Pillai's motion. I shall give some of my personal experience in the veterinary dispensaries of the State. I have myself visited a few institutions—

PRESIDENT: Will you speak a little louder so that Dr. Kunjan Pillai may hear you?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I have myself visited a few of the veterinary dispensaries and hospitals of the State. Most of these Veterinary Surgeons are idling away their time, because they get only an animal or two occasionally. Of course, they may fill up their books and registers with a number of names. One of the Veterinary Inspectors—

PRESIDENT: If you are going to criticise the policy of the Veterinary Department, you can do so when the next motion is being discussed. It would be appropriate then, because this motion of Mr. Kumara Pillai relates to the question of giving grants to private veterinary men. It is not a motion for reduction of the total grant.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I shall just answer one or two points raised by Mr. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. M. N. Pillai—

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai has not spoken.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): As regards the point raised by Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, he told me a few days ago that he received a petition from some inhabitants of Kayankulam complaining that the veterinary officers do not visit their place.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Not exactly that they were not visited, but that they are in need of better help.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): As far as Kayankulam is concerned, this question was brought up at the last or the previous session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and then it was decided that special arrangements should be made for the veterinary officer at Quilon, visiting Kayankulam at least once a month and staying there for a week at least, every time he goes there. I accordingly made the necessary arrangements and I know that the Veterinary Inspector at Quilon goes to Kayankulam every month, stays there a week and attends to the treatment of animals in consultation with the President of the Muncipality. The President, I am glad to say, renders all possible help to the officer.

The charge made against the veterinary officers is that they are not doing sufficient work. When they remain in the veterinary hospitals they can treat only cases which are taken there.

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai is going to speak again.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Then I will not refer to it now.

Mr. Kumara Pillai said that there are private veterinary phisicians who should be encouraged by Government giving them grants. In the first place, there is no proper criterion by which the ability of the physician can be tested. It is not possible to hold examinations and there is no other means of testing his skill in the profession. In the case of Ayurveda, no doubt, grants are given to native physicians. In their case, their proficiency is being tested by examinations.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are there not physicians attached to the Ayurvedic Department, who have not passed any examination and yet receive grants from Government?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): In any case, there is a criterion by which the ability of Ayurvedic physicians can be tested.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know what that criterion is?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The Director of Ayurveda is an expert in the Ayurvedic system of treatment. He examines each applicant and decides whether he deserves grant or not. In the case of these veterinary physicians no such thing is possible. I do not deny the fact that in some cases the indigenous physicians are as good as veterinary surgeons and in some

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

cases they are even better. In regard to elephants, for example, treatment by native physicians is very often more effective than that of Veterinary Surgeons. The point to be considered is whether some means can be devised to test the ability of these physicians. This is a matter requiring examination, and I assure the House that it will be examined and whatever possible will be done in the matter of giving grants to those who really deserve them.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilarankod*): ഡാക്ടർ കുഞ്ഞൻപിള്ളയുടെ മറുപടിയിൽ ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ച മാതിരി ഉള്ള പ്രതിബന്ധം ഉള്ളതായിട്ടല്ല അദ്ദേഹവും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവരിൽ ഏതെനെയാണ് ഗ്രാൻറ് കൊടുക്കുന്നത്, അവരെ ഏതെല്ലാമാണ് പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കേണ്ടത് എന്നുള്ള വിഷയങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നെന്നു പറയുന്നു. വെററിനെറി ആശുപത്രിയിൽ വരുന്ന ദീനക്കേടുള്ള രണ്ടു കന്നുകാലികളെ രണ്ടുപേരെക്കൊണ്ട് ചികിത്സിപ്പിച്ചു നോക്കുക. കൂടുതൽ ഫലപ്രാപ്തി ആരിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടുന്നോ അവർക്ക് ഗ്രാൻറ് കൊടുക്കുക. അയോഗ്യന്മാർക്ക് ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുത്താൽ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കന്നുകാലികൾക്കാണ് ദോഷം. ശരിയായി ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നു എന്നു കൃഷിക്കാർ പറയുന്ന ഒരാൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം ചികിത്സ നന്നായിരിക്കും. ആനകളെ ചികിത്സിക്കുന്നതിൽ നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരുടെ ചികിത്സ നന്നായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് അദ്ദേഹംതന്നെ പറഞ്ഞു. [illegible] ചികിത്സകന്മാർക്കു കൂടി ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം തൃപ്തികരമായ അനുഭവം കിട്ടുന്നതാണ്. കല്ക്കുളം താലൂക്കിൽ ചികിത്സിക്കുന്ന ഒരാൾ ഇന്ന തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുവന്ന് ചികിത്സ നടത്തിവരുന്നു. ഇതുപോലെ ഒരു വൈദ്യൻ ഇരണിയൽ താലൂക്കിലും ഉണ്ട്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് ചികിത്സയിൽ വലിയ ഫലം കണ്ടുവരുന്നില്ല. അവരെ വിളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന കാര്യം പ്രയാസമാണ്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടാണ് വെററിനെറി ആശുപത്രിയിൽ അധികം കന്നുകാലികളെ ചികിത്സിപ്പിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇവരെ വിളിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽതന്നെ താമസിച്ചു ചികിത്സിക്കയില്ല. നാട്ടുവൈദ്യന്മാരാകുമ്പോൾ അവർ താമസിച്ചു ചികിത്സിക്കും. ഇതിനുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ മാതിരി പരിഹരിക്കാവുന്നതാണു.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have already explained that that matter requires examination, that it will be examined, and that what is possible will be done.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilarankod*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 331.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

331. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,231 for Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries by Rs. 1,000.

My object in sending the motion was simply to point out the fact already mentioned by me. I do not want to say anything more on the subject.

MR. M. N PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to make a few suggestions for improving the existing conditions in the Veterinary Department. I am sorry to see that the Veterinary Department is not working very satisfactorily. From my own personal experience, as I said a few minutes ago, most of these veterinary surgeons are idling away their time. I have seen some of them playing at cards. When I asked some of them, their reply was that they occasionally get an animal for treatment and that they waste the rest of the time. What I would suggest is that they should at least be travelling for 20 or 25 days every month. For instance, the surgeon at Trivandrum can go about to Attingal and other places.

MR V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, there is a veterinary hospital at Attingal.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): At present they are not of much use to the public. They must be moving about instead of remaining in certain places waiting for animals to be brought to them. Of course, the treatment is not very often successful, due to the quality of the drugs supplied to the department. I understand some of them have even complained to the Director that the quality of the drugs is bad. I think, unless the drugs are properly selected, the animals treated will not at all be benefited. I also came to understand that the supply of drugs is given on contract to a private contractor for the past four or five years. I do not know why the Director did not cancel the contract and try to get medicine from the Medical Stores or from some reputed firms. The success in the treatment depends on the quality of the drugs supplied. I have myself seen some of the bottles. Most of the bottles are not the original bottles. They are labelled by some local firm. Most of the drugs are easily available in the original bottles themselves in very many firms. I wonder why the Director of Agriculture did not get the drugs directly from Europe along with the supply to the Medical Department or from reliable firms in Bombay or Madras.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I should like to know whether Mr. M. N. Pillai has tested any of these medicines.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I have not tested them. I have seen them. I am fully convinced that they are not genuine medicines.

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

The veterinary doctors themselves have told me that they are adulterated.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has Mr. M. N. Pillai ever reported the fact to Dr. Kunjan Pillai ?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I told Dr. Kunjan Pillai about it, and he said that he would cancel the contract and order medicines from the Medical Stores. I do not know whether he has done it. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is not an expert in veterinary science and therefore perhaps he was not able to exercise his control over the department.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether Mr. M. N. Pillai is an expert in the science. (*Laughter.*)

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I am not. With all that, I know that the drugs are bad. If an expert is appointed to assist Dr. Kunjan Pillai I hope the department will improve. I hope Dr. Kunjan Pillai will insist upon the veterinary doctors going about and thereby giving relief to animals.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, very many charges have been brought against the veterinary officers. The first charge is that they are idling away their time and playing cards occasionally.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Not occasionally, Sir. Most of their time they have to waste.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): If they have no work to do they may have probably been idling away their time. Surely, they attend on all the cases that are taken to the dispensaries. Simply because they happen to indulge in playing cards when they have no work to do, I do not think that we shall be justified in closing down all these dispensaries. Although they do not get a large number of cases regularly, occasionally there are serious outbreaks of contagious diseases like rinderpest, when they will have tight work. It is necessary to maintain a sufficient veterinary staff to combat such outbreaks.

As regards touring, I may say that there is a standing order that they should be touring as much as possible. Except the officer at Trivandrum all others are touring for not less than 16 to 18 days every month. The officer at Trivandrum is not allowed to go on circuit because he has to attend on the animals in the Zoo and carry on inspection of horses in the town under the Glanders and Farcy Regulation. The work which touring officers do may not be quite satisfactory. Whenever I receive a complaint I investigate it and see that the defect in their work is remedied. I am not an expert in Veterinary Science. I have undergone a course of training for six months and that only for an hour a day. The veterinary surgeons we have here are all well

qualified men who have undergone four or five years' training in a Veterinary College. To help me in supervising the work of veterinary officers, provision has been included in the budget for the appointment of a Veterinary Assistant. I may point out to the House that this additional appointment does not involve any additional expenditure to the Government. The work of this Assistant will be to go about and check the work of the veterinary officers, inspect veterinary hospitals, examine the stock of medicines, etc.

Regarding the supply of drugs, I must say that the contract was given to a local firm for five years about three years ago.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the necessity for giving the contract for five years?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It was done during the last administration.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did not Dr. Kunjan Pillai make any protest at that time?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there any scarcity for medicine at that time?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) There was no scarcity of drugs. The local firm offered reasonable terms and hence the contract was given to them for 5 years.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did the Director of Agriculture ever compare the rates with those of the medical stores?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) I did not do that. The contract is for 5 years and that period expires next year or so, when the question of renewing this contract or of engaging a new contractor will be considered. I do not remember to have told Mr. M. N. Pillai that the contract will be cancelled. It may not be renewed after the expiry of the period.

As regards the quality of the drugs, I must say that I received a few complaints, and in all these cases I insisted on the bad drugs being rereplaced at the cost of the firm.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Have you ever brought the complaints to the notice of Government?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): No. There was no necessity for that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not the duty of Dr. Kunjan Pillai to report to Government as soon as he received the complaints?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I received only very few complaints. If any officer found that a drug was bad, he should report the matter to me at once, so that I might issue orders to have it replaced. This year I received only one complaint

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

about the shortage of a medicine, and the shortage was ordered to be supplied immediately.

As regards Mr. M. N. Pillai's observation that the drugs are not supplied in the original bottles it must be remembered that the annual allotment for each institution for this purpose is only about Rs. 300.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There is an allotment of Rs. 4,000 or so. I wish to know whether the Director could not get from some reliable firm the whole stock for Rs. 4,000 and store it in a store-room.

PRESIDENT: It is a firm that now supplies.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to know whether it is not possible for the Director to order drugs all the Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 and stock them, and then distribute to the different hospitals.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): That means additional expenditure. We want a building to store the medicines and a store-keeper to be in charge of them. Any how, this question may be considered when the period of the present contract expires.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how the medicines are distributed at present?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*):

The medicines are now supplied to each institution by the contractor at his risk. He meets the packing and transport charges.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, do you press the motion?

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The following motions were not moved: --

Motions 332 and 333.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

332. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

333. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,100 for land acquisition charges.

Motion 334.

334. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·79 lakhs under Demand XIII by Rs. 20,000.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattutupuzha*): കൃഷിഡി പ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്ക് ആകെ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒരുലക്ഷത്തിഎഴുപത്തൊ

ൻപതിനായിരം രൂപായിൽ ൧൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ പ്രമേയം.

ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും ഇതുവരെ ചിലവാക്കിട്ടുള്ള പണത്തിന്റെയോ, ഇതുവരെ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഗുണത്തിന്റെയോ, സരിയായി വിചാരിച്ചാൽ പാടെ തീരെ തൃപ്തികരമെന്നു പറയാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഭൂരിഭാഗം ജനങ്ങളുടെ തൊഴിലും ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ പ്രധാനമുതലെടുപ്പും കൃഷിയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ കൃഷിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കായി ധാരാളം പണം ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നതിനെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഒരു പ്രതിനിധിയെന്നോ ഒരു കൃഷിക്കാരനെന്നോ നിലയിൽ ഞാൻ തടസ്സം പറയാത്തതാകുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ നിഷ്പ്രയോജനമായ വ്യയം എത്രമാത്രത്തിലും തടയപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള വിചാരമാണ് എന്നെ ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഇതുവരെയുള്ള പ്രവൃത്തികളേയും അതിൽനിന്നും രാജ്യത്തു കൃഷിവിഷയമായി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെയും പററി കുറച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിക്കാം.

ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നും വളങ്ങൾ ശേഖരിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് വില്ക്കുന്നതാണു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഒരു പ്രവൃത്തി. ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഗവർമ്മെന്റു വഹിക്കുന്ന ചിലവ് ആവശ്യമുള്ളതല്ലെന്നു മറ്റൊരവസരത്തിൽ കാരണസഹിതം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. വളത്തിന്റെ ഉപയോഗത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരെ വേണ്ടപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കൊടുത്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ ഈ നാട്ടിലെ വളങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങുകയും വില്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നവിഷയത്തിൽ മററു കാര്യങ്ങളിലെന്നപോലെ ജനങ്ങൾ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഇതുവരെ പലമായിട്ടും വളത്തിന്റെ ഉപയോഗത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ വേണ്ടപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ അത് ഒരു പരാജയമായി വിചാരിക്കണം. വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പലതരം ചെടികളെ വരുത്തി സംരക്ഷിച്ചു പരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനും, ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു കീഴ് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ്വെജിറ്റബിൾ ഉദ്യാനം ചിലവുചെയ്യുവാൻ ഒരുക്കിയുള്ളതായി ബഡ്ജററിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നു. നേരത്തെ വാങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ളവയെ പരീക്ഷിച്ചാൽ ധാരാളം മതിയായിരുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിയും മണ്ണിന്റെ സ്വഭാവവും ഇവയ്ക്ക് എത്രമാത്രം പററുമെന്നു പരീക്ഷിച്ചറിവാൻ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളവ പോരയോ? കൂടുതൽ വരുത്തുന്നതു നഷ്ടമായ വഴി. അയൽരാജ്യങ്ങളായ തിരുനൽവേലി കോയമ്പത്തൂർ ജില്ലകളിലുള്ള ഇവിടത്തേക്കാൾ വലിയതരം കാളക്ക

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ങ്ങളേയും പക്ഷികളേയും ഇവിടെ പണ്ടേതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾ വളൎത്തുമായിരുന്നല്ലൊ വേണം ഊഹിക്കുവാൻ. ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതി പററാതെ വരുന്നതും അവിടങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിക്കാർ വലിയ ചിലവുകൂടാതെ ഇവയ്ക്കു കൊടുത്തുപോരുന്ന പരുത്തിക്കുരു, ചോളവയ്ക്കോൽ, മുതലായവ ഇവിടെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രയാസവും, അധികച്ചിലവും ഉള്ളതു നിമിത്തമായിരിക്കുന്നു ഇവിടെ ഇവയെ കൃഷിക്കാർ വളൎത്താതിരുന്നതു്. എനിക്കും എൻെറ സ്വദേശികളായ പലൎക്കും വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന കാളകളേയും പക്ഷികളേയും സംരക്ഷിച്ചു വളൎത്തുന്നതു് കൃഷിക്കാൎക്കു പ്രായേണ അധികച്ചിലവിനും നഷ്ടത്തിനും ഇടവരുത്തുന്നതാണെന്നു് അനുഭവത്തിൽ നിന്നും ബോധപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പരീക്ഷണത്തോട്ടങ്ങളുടെ കാൎയ്യവും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ വളരെ പ്രയോജനകരമായിരിക്കുന്നില്ല. യാതൊരു പുതിയ കൃഷിയും പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കി ആദായകരമാണെന്നു കണ്ടു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഇവിടത്തേതിനോടു തുല്യമായ മണ്ണും ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിയും ഉള്ള ദേശങ്ങളിൽ പോയി അവിടെ ആദായകരങ്ങളായിരിക്കുന്ന കൃഷികളെ ഇവിടെ പരീക്ഷണത്തോട്ടങ്ങളിൽ പരീക്ഷിച്ചു രാജ്യത്തു പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ നോക്കേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഇതിലേയ്ക്കായി ഡയറക്ടരവർകളോ മററോ ദൂരദിക്കുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതായാലും വലിയ തരക്കേടില്ല. വടക്കെ ഇന്ത്യയിലും മററും നടക്കാറുള്ള പ്രദൎശനങ്ങൾക്കു പോകുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ ഈവിധമുള്ള യാത്രകളാണു് അധികം നല്ലതു്. മരച്ചീനി, തേയില, റബർ, കടപ്പിലാവു്, പറങ്കിമാവു്, പേര മുതലായവ വിദേശങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നവയാണെല്ലൊ. ഇവ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനു മുമ്പു് ഇങ്ങിനെ പ്രയോജനകരങ്ങളായ ചിലതുണ്ടെന്നു ആരും വിചാരിച്ചിരിക്കയില്ല. ഈവിധത്തിലുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലുമൊന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു നാട്ടിൽ പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനു് കഴിയാത്തതു കഷ്ടംതന്നെ. ബാങ്കുനെല്ലു്, നിലക്കടല, ഇരിനൂകലപ്പ ഇവയൊന്നും ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നു ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടും നാട്ടിൽ വ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇവ ഇവിടേയ്ക്കു അധികം പററിയവയല്ലെന്നു വെളിപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടു്. കുടികളുടെ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ഗവൎണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതു് ഒരുതരത്തിൽ ദ്രവ്യവ്യയത്തിനു ഹേതുവാണു്. മിക്ക താലൂക്കുകളിലും ചുരുങ്ങിയവിലയ്ക്കു പാട്ടത്തിനോ ഭൂമി കിട്ടും. തരിശുഭൂമികളും കാണാതിരിക്കയില്ല. ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെ

ൻറിൻെറ പൂർണ്ണമായ അധീനതയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതാണ് അധികം നല്ലത്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും സ്വന്തമായി നടത്തുന്ന പരീക്ഷണത്തോട്ടങ്ങളും പത്തേക്കറിൽകൂടുതൽ വിസ്തീർണ്ണതയുള്ളതായിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും പലതരത്തിലുള്ള ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിയോടും മണ്ണോടും കൂടിയ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ചെറിയ ചെറിയ പരീക്ഷണത്തോട്ടങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതാണ് അധികം നല്ലത്. കോന്നി കൃഷിക്കളത്തോടുചേർന്ന രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ മററുഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ചെന്നു കാണ്മാൻ പ്രയാസമുള്ള പ്രദേശത്തു വലിയ തോട്ടങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു പ്രയോജനം കുറയുകയും അധികച്ചിലവു വരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു കാരണമാണ്.

തെങ്ങിൻെറ സാംക്രമികരോഗത്തിനോ, നെല്ലിനു പിടിപെടാറുള്ള വായി, പുഴുക്കേട് മുതലായവയ്ക്കോ പ്രായോഗികമായ പ്രതിവിധിയൊന്നും കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ നടപ്പാക്കീട്ടില്ല. മൂപ്പതു ലക്ഷത്തിൽ ശിഷ്ടം രൂപായും ഒരു വ്യാഴവട്ടത്തിലധികം കാലവും നഷ്ടധനമായി കുറഞ്ഞകാലംകൊണ്ടു ആയി സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലല്ലോ. ഇത്രയും ധനവും സമയവും വ്യയം ചെയ്തിട്ടും സാരമായ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നും കൃഷിവിഷയത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിനുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നത്. ഓരോ കൃഷി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരും അവരവരുടെ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കടുത്ത് ഓരോ ചെറിയ പരീക്ഷണത്തോട്ടങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനും തെങ്ങിനും നെല്ലിനും മററും പിടിപെടുന്ന വ്യാധികൾക്കു ശമനം വരുത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ട പരീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനും ഒഴികെ മററുള്ള ചിലവെല്ലാം കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ നാലിലൊരു ഭാഗമായി കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും വലിയ തരക്കേടൊന്നുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഏർപ്പാടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം അതിനു ചിലവു ചുരുക്കുന്നത് കുറെ വിഷമമുള്ള കാര്യമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു വരുന്ന ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു നീക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു [illegible] പതിനായിരം രൂപായിൽ ൨൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാ മാത്രം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നത്. ഇത്രയും സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കൃഷിക്കാർക്കോ രാജ്യത്തിനോ യാതൊരു ദോഷവും വരുന്നില്ല. മൽപ്രസ്താവിച്ച കാരണങ്ങളാൽ എൻെറ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ മാന്യന്മാരായ നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരും അനുകൂലിക്കുമെന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I am extremely sorry that I have to differ from Mr. Kunjitomman

[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

over again. His has been a wholesale condemnation of every improvement attempted, of every process tried and of the achievements thus far effected by the Agricultural Department. He has given us eight instances. The first head of arraignment was that no new crop has been introduced by the department. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has sufficiently explained it. Next he said that *Banku* paddy and other exotics have been introduced. *Banku* paddy, if regarded as an exotic, has been sufficiently proved to be a very good exotic.

MR. TARITAU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കിയതിൽ മററു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ എത്രത്തോളം കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ അതിൽ ഇരട്ടിയും ശ്രേഷ്ഠതയും കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): രാജ്യത്ത് ഈ കൃഷിക്രമം വ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): പല താലൂക്കിലും ഉണ്ട്.?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): വടക്കൻ ദിക്കുകളിൽ ഏതു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ അധികം ഉണ്ട്.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): തിരുവല്ലാ, ചങ്ങനാശേരി.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): വടക്കൻ ദിക്കുകളിൽ പലരും കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): പലർ എന്നുള്ളതിന്റെ അർത്ഥത്തെ ആശ്രയിച്ചിരിക്കും.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Murattupuzha*): പല താലൂക്കുകൾ എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): ഒന്നിലധികം ആളുകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നത് പലർ എന്നർത്ഥമാക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പലരും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്.

First, there was a sweeping denunciation of the department with a statement that the department has not introduced new species. Then, the charge against the department was that a new species of paddy was attempted to be tried. The two do not agree. The next head of attack was against the improved species of cattle. That is extremely surprising to me. Travancore cattle are very well known to be puny weaklings,

We depend upon cattle for our cultivation. Our future depends upon cattle; the future of population depends upon good cattle; without good cattle, the human species itself might deteriorate. Now, here is an arraignment that the department is trying new species of better cattle not only for agriculture but for general purposes. If my friend Mr. Kunjitomman had been travelling about elsewhere, he would have seen the state of cattle, for example in Mysore, the Karadapalli and Amrutmahal, which are famous all over the world.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ മൈസൂർ കന്നുകാലികളെ കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. മൈസൂറിൽ പലതരത്തിലും ഉത്തമമായവയുണ്ട്. ആ മൈസൂർ കന്നുകാലികൾ ഇവിടത്തെ നിററി മതിയെന്നാണോ മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണയ്യർ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): ധാരാളം മതിയാകും

I do not refer particularly to the Mysore breed. Improved breed has to be imported and people have to be educated. Seed-bulls have to be taken from door to door. Lectures and demonstrations are necessary to make the people realise that the future of the State necessitates the improvement of our breed of cattle. The next head of condemnation was the iron plough which is rusting, possibly because you have not got good cattle to draw. Mr. Kunjitomman does not want good cattle, and therefore the iron plough has to rust. And then there was a remark about Dr. Kunjan Pillai's going to other places for exhibition purposes and that that was a waste of public money. Unless he goes and attends exhibitions how is he to know what is going on outside and what improvements have been effected and what developments have taken place? Is he not bound to give the benefit of his experience to the outside world? Is he merely to gather information and to keep it for himself?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അന്യദിക്കിൽ പോയി പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ അറിയാനൊന്നുമില്ലെന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. വടക്കേ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രദർശനത്തിന് പോയതുകൊണ്ട് യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not want to join issue with Mr. Kunjitomman on any particular point. I do not want to be an apologist for the Government agency. But I find Dr. Kunjan Pillai has been misunderstood. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has done much good to the State. He has been going about all over giving impetus to agriculture. I can testify to that. As regards the Koni pepper plantations referred to by Mr. Kunjitomman, I believe such a large acreage need not have been taken up for experimental purposes; for pepper cultivation has not reached its acme in Travancore. New species have to be tried in Minachil and other places, as the existing plants have died on account of pests and diseases. I do not say that no

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

attempt has been made towards the eradication of that pest. I know, more has to be done for pepper. The best species have to be selected and propagated and a lot of evolution work has to be done. Lastly, the attack was about the leaflets published by Dr. Kunjan Pillai which, Mr. Kunjitomman said were only available to the educated classes. The leaflets are intended for instruction, and very many people avail themselves of them. If some people do not avail themselves, it is their own fault. I know there are many people up-country who reap much benefit out of them, who want information and who use them in their own farms. As I started with observing, though I do not want to pose as an official apologist, in this one instance I cannot but say that the department has been maligned, that it has been doing very successful work, has achieved much, and that this sort of arraignment should not be allowed to continue.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments of Mr. Krishna Aiyar. The accusation of my friend Mr. Kunjitomman when analysed comes to this, that Dr. Kunjan Pillai has not been able to perform a magician's part or perform any agricultural legerdemain in the State. He is coolly and patiently doing various experiments, and Mr. Kunjitomman has not got the patience to await the results of those experiments. If we are not prepared to allow the Director of Agriculture to evolve new things by conducting experiments successfully, we are not justified in arraigning him.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എത്ര കാലം കാത്തിരിക്കണം ഫലം വെളിപ്പെടും?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): എത്ര നാളു കാത്തിരുന്നാൽ വെളിപ്പെടുമെന്നാണ് നിങ്ങളുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം? (*Laughter.*)

MR. TARITU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എനിക്ക് അവിടത്തെ ഉദ്ദേശം അറിഞ്ഞാലേ സാധിക്കയുള്ളു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): നിങ്ങൾ കാത്തിരിക്കുവാൻ ഭാവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ? (*Laughter.*)

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കാത്തിരിക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ട് ചോദിച്ചു എന്നേയുള്ളു. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): കുറെ കാത്തിരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം എനിക്ക് നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*). എനിക്ക് ചോദിക്കാൻ ഉള്ള അവകാശമുണ്ട്. കാത്തിരിക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ചോദിച്ചത്. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : നിങ്ങടം ഇഷ്ടം ക്ഷമിച്ചിരിക്ക. ഒന്നുകൂടുമായി പറയാം. (*Laughter.*) ഉത്തരംപറകയോ പറയാതിരിക്കയോ ചെയ്യാനെനിക്കധികാരമുണ്ട്. (*Laughter.*)

I think the criticism has been started without any reference to specific omissions or specific commissions. It is quite possible to level a criticism of this nebulous kind against any man, and I am very sorry to say I cannot see eye to eye with the gentleman who has moved this motion.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : Sir, I also associate myself whole-heartedly with the remarks made by the two previous speakers with regard to the work of the Agricultural Department and of Dr. Kunjan Pillai. I am sure it is not anybody's contention—least of all Dr. Kunjan Pillai's contention—that the department has been brought to a high state of perfection or that it does not possess any defect or that it is not susceptible of any improvement. That is at any rate far from being the contention. But surely it would be wanting in a due sense of propriety if this Council goes away with the impression that Dr. Kunjan Pillai is not doing what is humanly possible to bring about improvements in regard to the methods of agriculture in this country. As has been said by the two previous speakers, I can say boldly that I am under no sort of obligation to Dr. Kunjan Pillai. But, I have always found him a very sympathetic officer. Whenever I had any difficulty, whenever I had any questions to ask, he was always ready to respond. Without any consideration of personal or physical inconvenience he has been always at the disposal of agriculturists who needed his help or counsel. This is not only my experience but the experience of most persons rich or poor, who have come in contact with him. I do not know what the experience of Mr. Kunjitomman with regard to Dr. Kunjan Pillai's accessibility is. It would be highly ungracious if I do not bear testimony to the various improvements effected by the department. There have been very many specific improvements in various directions owing directly to Dr. Kunjan Pillai's advice and demonstration and experiment. Throughout central Travancore, as has been said by Mr. Krishna Aiyar, cocoanut cultivation and sugarcane cultivation have in this manner received very considerable impetus. In the case of sugar cane cultivation in my own taluk, the improvements in the profit have been very marked, simply because the people have begun to use the manure which Dr. Kunjan Pillai demonstrated on ryots' lands—I beg pardon—on the lands of private individuals. With regard to paddy cultivation also, I am in a position to say that *Banku* paddy has been spreading in the taluks of Changanachery and Tiruvalla. Several persons came and told me that they have tried and found that the yield is very much greater than in the case of local paddy. It was introduced by Dr. Kunjan Pillai who has been trying to popularise it. But I should like to say that, if the improvement has not been greater, it is, to a great extent, due to the indifference of the people themselves. Dr. Kunjan Pillai may not be perfect, but I

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

suppose the work turned out by an agricultural expert from England or America will not be far superior. My own conviction is that the improvement will not be greater but much less than now. The reason is obvious. Unless the public co-operate more intelligently and more readily with the department, you cannot expect any great improvement upon the existing state of things. On the other hand, we see that, in countries like America, they have only to demonstrate a particular thing and it spreads like wild fire. There have been improvements which Dr. Kunjan Pillai has demonstrated but which people have not been taking to kindly simply because of their constitutional indifference or their innate conservatism, or most important of all, their proverty. If Mr. Kunjitomman wants to know what different manures have been demonstrated to be useful, I can give him a list of them which might in some cases yield 100 per cent. return on paddy, cocoanut and tapioca cultivation. When people say that Dr. Kunjan Pillai has not been doing as much as he ought to, the greater part of the blame ought to be laid upon the conservative tendency of our people and also partly upon their meagre cash or credit resources. Such being the case, I feel bound to protest against the wholesale and indiscriminate condemnation of a department which has been of very great use to the country and which is bound to play a far greater part in the future.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): I wish to say a few words in addition to what has already been said by the previous speakers. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is one of the most enthusiastic and sympathetic heads of departments, and if my friend, Mr. Kunjitomman, did not find the results which he expected, it is simply because he expected too much out of him. He is evidently conducting several experiments by the department. All such experimental departments cannot work wonders all on a sudden. I think we should have more patience, I say, more patience than the patience exhibited by my friend, Mr. Kunjitomman, to get the desired results. If we compare the results of similar experiments conducted by the Directors of Agriculture and other development departments elsewhere, we do not find a great difference there. Perhaps, Dr. Kunjan Pillai has done more here than others elsewhere. So, I do not think I shall be justified if I do not protest against the general condemnation made by my friend Mr. Kunjitomman about the department. No doubt, considerable improvements should be effected and we all wish for further improvements and better results.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am glad to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Krishna Aiyar and the succeeding speakers that the operations of the Agricultural Department are turning out to be of immense advantage to the country. Sir, in the discussion before us the issues were somewhat clouded. I am referring to that aspect because I realise that when we draw the names of important officers who are members in this Council within the arena of discussion, there are considerations which it will be very difficult for

some individual members to shake off. What we are concerned with, Sir, is the work of the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Department is, presided over by Dr. Kunjan Pillai. There is nothing but praise for him. But I am adverting to this aspect of the question because if you attach too much importance to the personnel of important departments the question of friendship and animosity will arise and religion and other considerations will warp judgment and place people in a very difficult situation; so that all that I wish to concern myself with is the work of the Agricultural Department. I am sorry that the scope of the department should have been misunderstood. I am not prepared to agree with my friend Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai in saying that all the fault lies on the people. This would be no compliment to the head of the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Department does its work well enough. That work is recognised and acted upon by the people. That is just the reason why the Agricultural Department wants to push on its activities, in further and further directions. Therefore, Sir, in addition to defending the Agricultural Department one should defend the people of Travancore, an intelligent set of people who take seriously to agriculture and who are anxious to be benefited by the experiments and demonstrations conducted by the department. In all these cases, as has been very often mentioned by various persons in this House, time is of the essence and unless we wait for a sufficient time no department will be able to show practical results. Government have been spending generously a good deal of money in the improvement of the Agricultural Department and the Department of Industries. We have to wait and see; but at the same time, if they make any wrong move we should stop it. But if the departments require money, we have to provide them with the sinews of war. I beg once more to associate myself with the view that the Agricultural Department is doing very much indeed for the prosperity of His Highness' subjects.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move that the question be now put.

PRESIDENT: I suppose there is no objection to the motion.

The motion for closure was duly carried.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I have not got much to say upon the subject. I have been accused and I have been defended, and very ably defended too. It is neither necessary nor desirable that I should attempt to defend myself. I only want to refer to two or three specific points raised in the course of this discussion.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ ആളിനെ ആക്ഷേപിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. പ്രവൃത്തിയുടെ ഫലത്തെപ്പററി അനുഭവം കൊണ്ടു വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുന്നതേയുള്ളു.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I say, I, as the Director of Agriculture, have been accused. When I

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said I, I meant only the Director of Agriculture. I have to refer to one or two points raised by Mr. Kunjitomman. He said that the Agricultral Department is not introducing new methods, is not experimenting upon new crops, and so on. It has been pointed out by Mr. Krishna Aiyar that the new variety of *Banku* paddy has been introduced by the department and that its cultivation is spreading. The department proposes to start an experiment on potato cultivation at Peermade. Potato is an important article of food, and it is being cultivated in the High Ranges and we want to find out whether it can be grown at Peermade. Regarding the pepper farm, about which Mr. Kunjitomman and Mr. Krishna Aiyar spoke, I may say that I have taken 400 acres, of which 150 acres have been planted with about 20 varieties of pepper. My idea is to conduct experiments with different varieties of pepper and standards and with various kinds of manures. For these experiments a fairly large area is required. 150 acres have already been planted up and I do not propose to extend the plantation any more. There is a balance of about 300 acres which I want to utilise for cattle-breeding purposes. The cattle in central Travancore are very poor and I would like to conduct some cattle-breeding operations in that part of the country. Mr. Kunjitomman referred to the rusting of the iron plough. I have all along been recommending only small ploughs costing not more than Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. I know the condition of our cattle and I have therefore never recommended ploughs costing Rs. 25. Of course, ploughs are available for Rs. 25 and more.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether he can give us any information about the nature of ploughs in Manu's time which was mentioned by Mr. Kunjitomman.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am sorry I cannot. I am not in possession of that information. (*Laughter.*) I have been advocating small iron ploughs. They are being used here and there. I do not know if any cultivator is using this plough at Kotamangalam. Recently, my friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai interpellated Government about the implements manufactured by the Agricultural Department. Well, Sir, a successful attempt has been made at the Agricultural School at Alwaye, in manufacturing a small plough costing only Rs. 2½. This is being advertised in the Gazette. I have sent this plough to the agricultural officers for distribution among the ryots. It can be used on light sandy soils; probably it may not suit the hard soil at Kotamangalam. If the plough costing Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, is found to be too heavy, this small plough can be tried instead. I do not press it upon the people. I ask them to buy it only if they find it useful. As I already remarked, the points raised by my friend Mr. Kunjitomman have been answered by my friends on the other side, and it is not necessary that I should say anything in self-defence. I must thank the members on the other side for appreciating the little work that I have been able to do. It may be possible to improve the working of the department in several directions. I will be

thankful to all the gentlemen who point out defects in the administration of the department and I can assure them that I am prepared to consider such defects and remedy them, if it is in my power to do so.

PRESIDENT: வோட்டு எடுக்கவேண்டுமா?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): വേണം.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I demand a poll.

The poll was taken, Mr. Kunjitomman alone voting for the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I would request that, if possible, the available time may be utilised for the discussion of other subjects.

PRESIDENT: You have got only 8 minutes more for the expiry of the time allotted for this demand. I do not know if the House would like to sit till six. I do not think it is right. As a matter of fact, I have fixed up other work at 5-30. We generally rise after two and a half hours' sitting; that will be over at 5-33 or 5-34.

There is one more motion under this Demand by Mr. Madhava Variar. Do you move it?

Motion 335

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

335. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·79 lakhs under Demand XIII, Agriculture and Fisheries by Rs. 100.

It cannot be denied that there is a feeling amongst the agriculturists that the Department of Agriculture is not doing what is expected from it. I do not blame Mr. Kunjitomman for expressing that feeling very strongly in this Council, but, at the same time, I do not say that I endorse that feeling because I am able to read, from the reports and other publications of the Agricultural Department, how the department is working and I am satisfied that the department is doing some useful work, though that work is not appreciated by the public. I think it is due to the fact that the department has not been able to effect a rapid dissemination of the knowledge and the improvements made by the department among the agricultural population. That is why people are impatient and that is why they accuse the Agricultural Department of slowness. The ordinary people are not able to realise the importance of the demonstrations conducted by the Agricultural Department, and this may be due to the paucity of hands to do propaganda work. The model farms in the State are not stimulating that enthusiasm in the people for adopting better methods of cultivation. This may be due to the location of those farms in unsuitable places, and this may be due again to the want of proper cultivation in some of these farms. What I urge upon the attention of this Council is that farms should be located in different centres of Travancore and the aim of the department must be to establish at least one farm in each taluk to be the focus

[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

of administration and also for the local testing of the results obtained in the Institutions. Mr. Kunjitomman was pointing out that the agriculturists were not able to procure proper and scientific implements for cultivation, and what I suggest is that a factory may be established with a competent mechanic to evolve machinery best suited to the local conditions and to manufacture the same locally by scientific implements. There is no proper rural agricultural institute in this country. The Department of Agriculture should co-operate with the Department of Education. I think that a scheme of rural agricultural instruction will remove much misunderstanding and thereby the result of the research can be widely popularised.

Another thing I have to point out is that we do not get correct agricultural statistics in the country and I do not know how we can formulate any scheme of agricultural expansion without proper agricultural statistics. I think it is time that the Government prepared estimates of production and a programme of development for each taluq area. Now the public are not able to focus their attention on the definite results of the work of the department and the more important improvements and the methods which the department is in a position to recommend for adoption by the people as a result of the year's work and experiment.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, the result of the voting on the last motion is a record one in this House.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Mr. Krishna Aiyar and Mr. Narayana Pillai had always some criticism to make about men and matters administrative. But, with regard to the Agricultural Department there was a chorus of applause, and that is a big feather in Dr. Kunjan Pillai's cap. I quite agree with Mr. Madhava Variar that more propaganda work is necessary. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has made two blades of paddy grow where we had one before. He has made the single *punja* cultivation into a double crop. All that is very good, but ours is a conservative land and our ideas die very hard. With regard to the manuring of cocoanut trees, I see people carrying on their old methods. They go and lump ashes just at the foot of the tree instead of putting it all round. That is what 90 per cent. of the people are still doing. This makes the tree prematurely old and the roots come out and and we do not get proper produce out of it. What is wanted is more of propaganda work.

*DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I think, Mr. Madhava Variar has made some useful suggestions to improve the efficiency and usefulness of the department. He has pointed out the necessity for more propaganda work and I agree with him. I only differ from those gentlemen who seem to think that the publication of leaflets, the delivery of lectures and that kind of work are not what is wanted. I fully agree with Mr. Variar in thinking that we want

more propaganda work. It is with a view to carry on better propaganda work that provision has been made in the budget for the purchase of a magic lantern. A motion for a cut in respect of that item was, I am glad to note, not moved. It is proposed to carry on intensive propaganda work by delivering lantern lectures which will be more attractive and more impressive. Then again, we are now proposing to hold periodical exhibitions on Government farms with a view to attract neighbouring cultivators to the farms. More propaganda work means more staff. Everywhere in India the Agricultural Department is suffering from paucity of trained men. Almost every province has opened an Agricultural College. Men trained in these colleges are being absorbed by the local departments. Though no college has been established here, our Government have deputed a few young men to the Agricultural Colleges at Poona and Nagpore for training. They are being trained there and I hope that, by this time next year, a few of them will return and that, if the Council would agree to their entertainment in service and sanction the necessary funds, I would entertain them and arrange for more propaganda work being carried on. Regarding the establishment of a farm in each taluk, personally I would like to see it accomplished so that each farm may become a centre for the dissemination of scientific agricultural knowledge in that taluk. But the question is one of funds and staff. As funds and men become available, we may have in course of time one farm in each taluk from where improved agricultural knowledge will spread in the country. Regarding the suggestion about opening a factory for manufacturing implements, I have already told the House that I made a very small beginning with the manufacture of an improved plough at the Agricultural School at Alwaye. The invention of new implements and machines is not an easy matter. It is not possible for everybody to be an inventor. The power of invention is nature's gift. In order to stimulate interest in such matters, Government have offered a reward of Rs. 500 for the invention of a motor plough that can be used in ploughing *punja* lands. For 9 months in the year the *punja* lands are under water and Government have offered a reward to any one who would invent a suitable plough which can be used for ploughing these lands under water. Government will certainly encourage new inventions. With regard to rural instruction, I fully agree with Mr. Madhava Varar in thinking that more facilities should be provided for spreading agricultural education in the country. We are not remaining idle in this matter. The Education Department has attempted to teach agriculture in ordinary vernacular schools. At the time when motions for cuts in the educational budget came up for discussion I wanted to say a word about the teaching of agriculture in Vernacular schools. My experience for the past several years as an examiner in agriculture for the Vernacular School Leaving Examination, enables me to say that the result of teaching agriculture in vernacular schools is very disappointing. Book learning is not enough in the case of agriculture. There must be a garden attached to the schools for practical training. It is not possible to have a garden or a demonstration farm attached to each school.

[President.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Is it tried anywhere here?

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I do not think that it has been tried. Only the theoretical side of agriculture has been taught and the results are not at all satisfactory.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): What will be the cost of a moderate school?

PRESIDENT: I saw one the other day, but the results are not satisfactory.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am asking about the cost.

DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): It depends upon the locality and other circumstances. There is no advantage in starting one school here and another there. You must make it general throughout the country and this requires a large expenditure and a number of trained teachers. We are now starting separate agricultural schools. There is one at Alwaye and there is provision in this budget to start another at Kottarakara. As funds and trained men become available it is proposed to start more such elementary agricultural schools where the training given will be mostly practical. It may be possible later on to open classes even for adults in rural parts as is done in America. But we must make a beginning and that is what we are now doing. As regards agricultural statistics, the necessity of collecting and publishing them is admitted. Government have already made a beginning in a few taluks. About 8 or 9 taluks have been selected specially for this purpose. The *proverthy* staff and the taluk staff have been specially instructed. I myself went round and gave them necessary instructions. In these taluks cultivation accounts are being regularly maintained by *proverthicar*. Statements are being sent by *proverthicar* to the taluk office and the Tahsildar consolidates them and sends them to me. If this system works satisfactorily the whole country will be brought under its operation and agricultural statistics will then be published periodically for the whole State as is done in British India.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The time allotted for this Demand has expired and I place before the House for its vote Demand XIII—Agriculture and Fisheries for Rs. 1·79 lakhs *minus* the cut of Rs. 4,000 accepted, for the sanction of the Council. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

We must now rise, gentlemen, and meet again at 11-30 to-morrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-42 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 14th August, 1923.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

The Council assembled in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12—*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Vacancy of a First Grade Excise Inspector.

171. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Excise Commissioner has, in filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Ramalingam Aiyar, First Grade Excise Inspector, made recommendations to the Government, ignoring the claims of Mr. K. Sivasankara Pillai, Second Grade Inspector (Senior), and of Messrs. K. Paramu Pillai B. A., B. L., and S. Krishna Aiyar, B. A., B. L., Head Clerk, and Head Accountant, respectively, in the Commissioner's Office?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government cannot disclose the contents of correspondence between them and their officers in regard to appointments or promotions.

Scrutiny of Appointments made by the Excise Commissioner.

172. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*):

(*a*) With reference to the answer given to interpellation No. 224 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 31st Minam, 1098, stating that Government were scrutinising the appointments below Rs. 40 made by the Excise Commissioner, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have finished the scrutiny of such appointments?

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

(*b*) In case the scrutiny is finished, have the Government been able to notice any acts of injustice done by the Excise Commissioner?

(*c*) If so, in how many cases were modifications effected in the appointments made by him?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the persons concerned in those cases and their official designation?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*d*) The list of appointments made by the Excise Commissioner under the reorganisation is still under scrutiny.

Appointment of Relatives by Heads of Departments.

173. MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the rules issued by the Government to the effect that the relatives of heads of departments should not be appointed under them are still in force?

(*b*) Was it during the administration of Mr. Van Ross that Mr. W. J. Cleur, a relative of his, was appointed as Inspector, Customs House, Alleppey?

(*c*) Have the Government permitted him to keep this Inspector, who is a relative of his, under him?

(*d*) Are Government aware of the fact that, when the appointment of Mr. W. J. Cleur was made, there were applicants with better qualifications and that there were men in the department itself with higher qualifications and service?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Mr. Cleur was appointed as Inspector before Mr. Van Ross became the head of the department. He was posted to the Customs House, Alleppey, by Mr. Van Ross.

(*c*) The Proclamation relating to the matter does not prohibit the retention of relatives of heads of departments in their own departments.

(*d*) No.

Persons from Cochin Service now in Travancore Service.

174. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement giving the following items of information:

(*a*) the names of persons entertained in the public service in Travancore who were previously employed in the Cochin service;

(*b*) the offices which they held there and the pay thereof;

(*c*) the appointments given to them here and the pay thereof;

(*d*) the names of those borrowed from the Cochin service;

(e) the names of those who were discharged from the Cochin service but entertained here;

(f) their conduct while in the Cochin service and the reasons for their discharge from that service; and

(g) the names of those who, after being discharged from Cochin, were entertained in the Travancore service and whose service in Cochin has been counted as service here, as also the length of their service in Cochin so counted?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) to (g) Government do not propose to call for the information, as the period for which it is wanted is indefinite, and as in their opinion the time and labour involved in its collection will be out of proportion to its utility.

Persons discharged from the Cochin service.

175. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact that when persons who were discharged from the Cochin service were entertained here, there were people here with superior qualifications, who were applicants for those posts?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to entertain persons whose services were dispensed with by the Cochin Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to give an answer, unless particulars of the cases which the member has in mind are given.

Entertainment of a person who worked against Travancore Interests.

176. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether an officer who, while in the Cochin service, worked in favour of Cochin and against Travancore in connection with the boundary dispute between the two States, was entertained in the service here?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the name of that officer, his official designation here, and his pay?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what that officer's official designation and pay in Cochin was?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether that officer's services were dispensed with in Cochin or whether his services were lent to this State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (a) to (d) It is not possible to give an answer, unless the member gives the name of the officer whom he has in view.

Grievances of Employees in Medical Department.

177. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the

[Mr T. Kumara Pillai]

fact that, under the recent reorganisation of the Medical Department, officers with longer and shorter service are receiving the same pay, and that this has been a source of grievance to several officers?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to give them pay according to the length of their service?

(*c*) Has the Darbar Physician brought this matter to the notice of the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. This is inevitable to some extent.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

Promotion of Mr. P. R. Subba Aiyar.

178. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has recommended Mr. P. R. Subba Aiyar, L. M. & S., to be promoted to the Surgeon's place now vacant, instead of recommending Mr. K. Krishna Pillai, L. M. & S.?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the several hospitals of the State in which Messrs. P. R. Subba Aiyar and K. Krishna Pillai had been medical officers and also the period during which they were in charge of each?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 171.

(*b*) The member is referred to the History of Services of Gazetted Officers—pages 704 to 706.

Promotion of Medical Officers as Deputy Surgeons.

179. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the medical officers who passed out of the Madras Medical College and joined the medical service here have been promoted as Deputy Surgeons since the appointment of Dr. Lakshmanan as Darbar Physician? Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing their names?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Assistant Surgeons L. A. Ravi Varma and K. P. Raman Pillai were permanently, and Assistant Surgeons N. Lakshmana Aiyar and A. M. Matthew temporarily, promoted to the grade of Deputy Surgeons.

Irregularities of Mr. P. N. Sankara Aiyar, Assistant Excise Commissioner.

180. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received petitions from Arukutty and Shertallai regarding the administrative irregularities of Mr. P. N. Sankara Aiyar, Assistant Excise Commissioner, Arukutty;

(*b*) whether these petitions were forwarded by the Government to the Excise Commissioner and by the latter to Mr. Sankara Aiyar;

(*c*) whether the Government were able to know the truth of the allegations against Mr. Sankara Aiyar contained in the petitions, on account of the same being forwarded to Mr. Sankara Aiyar himself; and

(*d*) whether the Government intend to appoint a committee with a non-official majority, to enquire into and report on the allegations contained in these petitions?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(*a*) Some petitions reported by the Excise Commissioner to be pseudonymous and containing allegations against the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Mr P. N. Sankara Aiyar, have been received.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government have no reason to believe that the forwarding of the petitions to the officer concerned interfered with the Excise Commissioner in ascertaining the truth of the allegations.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

Excise Circle largely open to Smuggling.

181. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) which is the Excise Circle where there is the greatest facility for smuggling: and

(*b*) the length of service, as Assistant Excise Commissioner, of the present incumbent there?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) In the Excise Commissioner's opinion it is the Alwaye Division.

(*b*) Mr. C. T. Ooman B. A., the present Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of the Alwaye Division, has been there since the 1st Kumbham, 1095.

Publication of Trade Returns.

182. MR. A. HOOGEWERFF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any trade returns are published in the *Travancore Economic Journal*, and if so, from what date?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The trade returns do not appear to have been published in the Economic Journal. The cause for the omission is being enquired into.

[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The term of the present Economic Development Board expires by the end of 1098, and a new Economic Development Board has to be appointed from 1099 onwards. It has been decided, in consultation with the Standing Finance Committee, to fix the strength of the new Economic Development Board at twelve, of whom five will be officials and the rest non-officials. Of the non-officials, four will be elected by the non-official members of the Legislative Council. I therefore request the non-official members to kindly meet as soon as to-day's work is finished and elect four from among themselves or from outside. The choice need not be restricted to the members of the House.

I also request the non-official members of the House to elect three members from among themselves for the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the year 1099. Both the elections will be held under the presidency of the Deputy President.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XIV—INDUSTRIES.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·35 lakhs, under Demand XIV—Industries.

Motion 336.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

336. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for Geological establishment.

There was a time when we had two State Geologists. Later on, it was found that one of them was sufficient for the purpose of the State. Now it has been found that a State Geologist is not necessary at all. Under these circumstances, I fail to see why there should be an Assistant Geologist with a big establishment under him.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I support the motion. Sir, we find, from the Administration Report of 1097, that the Geological Department was reorganised with effect from the 1st Chingam, 1097, and the staff strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Geologist, a Chemical Assistant and a prospector. The present Director of Industries was the State Geologist before he was appointed to be in charge of the Department of Industries without prejudice to his own duties in April, 1921, when Dr. Barker proceeded to England. I take this opportunity of requesting Mr. Chacko to give us some idea of the geological discoveries made before and after this section of the present Industrial Department has been strengthened by the appointment of the Assistant in 1097. For, it would indeed remove a good deal of misapprehension as regards the nature of the work and the results achieved hitherto by the Geological Department. The information would also enable us to form an opinion as to whether the

retention and continuance of the new establishment created in 1097 would be really useful or not.

My own information about the results achieved by the geological section of this department is that it has not till now justified its existence by making any discoveries or even by adding to our knowledge of the geological resources. I understand that no mineral of any value to the State has been discovered so far, and that no prospect of any successful discovery is in sight, though our impression has all along been, and still is, that Travancore is rich in mineral resources. Monazite was discovered by a German, though its discovery was not a matter of difficulty and though this State shares a monopoly of this mineral only with one other country in the world, *viz.*, Brazil. In spite of this fact, the State had to lose a good deal on account of the small royalty levied at first, because Government had then no proper advice and information as to its rarity and value. Plumbago and mica were known to exist in the country even before the Geological Department came into existence and the credit of working up these minerals belongs to foreign enterprise. I shall be glad to know of a single instance of a discovery which has benefited the State through all the time this department has been in existence.

Now, looking at the work done by the staff, the account given in the Administration Report of 1097 is not at all satisfactory or hopeful. Prospecting for pyrrhotite, 'inspecting' lignite seams at Varkalai and collecting a few rock slices are the work for which an expenditure of Rs. 12,097 had to be incurred in 1097. The report of 1097 also shows that, in 1096, the department was engaged in prospecting for graphite and mica, that prospecting for mica was found unnecessary as the Madras Mica Company was already in the field, and that prospecting for graphite had to be postponed pending the introduction of a bill authorising entry into private lands. Apparently, attempts in this direction were fruitless and were accordingly given up in 1097, and the result of the operations of the department is thus summarised in one sentence in the report of 1097 :

> "Consequently the department devoted its attention to prospecting for pyrrhotite alone during the year."

It seems to me tolerably certain that the present attempt to extract iron from laterite stones will not be of any practical use to the State. The attempt may have its value as a scientific experiment and may even afford some occupation to the staff for some time. But investigation should proceed from a utilitarian point of view and not for the satisfaction of a curiosity. Laterite is so widely scattered in area and the amount of iron that could be extracted is comparatively so small that it is not difficult to foresee that any attempt to start an industry and compete with foreign iron is certainly bound to fail. The absence of coal is another impediment in the way of any successful enterprise in this direction. In spite of the fact that iron ore in large quantities is found in Salem, even the Government of India find it impossible to work up the mines on account of the difficulty of bringing down coal from North

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

India. We have here neither the ore in such large quantities nor the coal with which alone an industry of the kind could be started; and yet this prospecting, without a thought as to its commercial value, is the work on which the staff is said to be engaged.

In this connection, I may be permitted to point out that the department has been very slow to take advantage of information leading to useful investigation and discovery. I would like to know for instance, whether the possibility of kerosine oil being found near Alleppey which was discussed in the *Madras Mail* in its last two *Engineering Supplements* has been brought to the notice of the Director and whether advantage has been taken of this discussion to make any investigation in this direction. Prospecting for kerosine oil, it need hardly be said, is certainly more desirable than prospecting for iron from laterite stones.

There are also very serious defects in the method of work adopted in this department. I understand that the Assistant Geologist is practically in charge of this section of the Industries Department and that he is a tolerably capable hand. Being a specialist in his branch of the work, one would have expected the Director to have given him a free hand in the matter of arranging his programme of work and to adopt a policy of non-interference in matters of detail. If my information is correct, this is not what has been done. The geological survey of the State has not been completed; and instead of the Assistant being allowed to complete the work begun in South Travancore, he has been asked to proceed to the north during this monsoon period. It seems to me that interference of this nature with the work of experts is not conducive to efficient work.

I do not wish to heap the blame upon any one for all the failures and losses that we have till now sustained; but I would request Government to pause and consider whether the money spent for the geological staff of the department is not wasted and whether the department deserves to be strengthened by the addition of hands who are unable to spot out a single useful article of any commercial value.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, before I begin to discuss the policy of the department, I should like to remove a slight misapprehension. The motion (*louder, please*) is directed against the staff of four officers in the Geological Department, consisting of the prospector, the surveyor, the curator and the section-cutter. Originally, this staff was sanctioned for the Geological Department. But the surveyor's place was lying vacant because the prospector could formerly carry on the work of the surveyor too. I had recommended to Government that the place might be left vacant until a need therefor arose. Then, since the amalgamation of the Geological Department with the Department of Industries, these two officers -the surveyor and

the curator-are doing the work of the Industries Department rather than that of the Geological Department; but they are both included in the budget under the geological section according to the old arrangement. In fact, only the other two, *viz.*, the prospector and the section-cutter belong to the geological section proper.

Now, I will speak something about the policy and the object of the Geological Department. The justification of anything will depend upon the view we take of its object. Now, as regards the Geological Department, people seem to be under the impression that its primary object is the discovery of minerals. I will read an extract from a report of an informal meeting of Princes held in Delhi on the 30th October, 1919, where the Director of the Geological Survey of India, Sir Henry Hayden, was also present to describe to the conference the utilisation of the geological survey of India, the Provinces and Native States. Sir Henry's observations were to the following effect:—

> "He then remarked that he desired to sound a note of warning against the general tendency to regard systematic map-making as waste of time and energy and to expect a geological survey to produce immediate results in the form of mineral deposi ts f economic value. Without the preparation of a geological map, search for minerals degenerates into mere prospecting in which years may be spent with no tangible result. On the other hand, a systematic survey results in the production of a geological map, which is a permanent record, and which, if it does not reveal the presence of minerals, at least prevents further fruitless search for them. The wise and, in the end, the only economical course was thorough scientific geological examination."

Sir, I have to tell the Council that from the very beginning the Geological Department has been keeping this ideal in view. If you read the reports of the Geological Department for the first two years, you will perceive two tendencies; one, to look for minerals to improve the economic condition of the State and send up reports thereon; and the other for mapping the country in a systematic and scientific manner. Naturally, Government could not decide which was the right tendency, and the question was referred to the Director of the Geological Survey of India, I think, in 1086 or 1087. Then the Director wrote to Government to say that the proper method was to make a systematic survey of the country and to map it out in a scientific manner. Government accepted the suggestion.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I know from Mr. Chacko the nature of the geological map which he is referring to?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Anybody can see the map. It has been published and is available.

PRESIDENT: What is the object of this map? What does it reveal? What is its nature? That is what Mr. Krishna Aiyangar wants to know.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It reveals the geological formation of the various parts of the country. I will give one instance to show the utility of such a geological survey.

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

Of late, there has been much talk about lignite. This lignite is associated with what is called, in Travancore geology, the Varkalai formation. The Geological Department has all along been mapping out this formation. The Varkalai formation has, as far as could be discovered by a superficial survey, been marked on the geological map. In the report of the Geological Department there is a statement that lignite is associated with the Varkalai formation. Now, having that statement in view, if you take the geological map and have a casual look at it, you can at once know in what parts of the State you can find lignite. Further, in my report, I have stated that, in addition to the portions marked in the map, I believe that that formation extends below the silt in the backwater tract, and that what is marked may be only portions of small fringes between the backwater tracts and what I call residual laterite. This is one important use of the systematic geological map. Now, from here, I can predict where you can find lignite. I have only to look into my map. The same is the case with various other things.

I will speak something about the reported existence of kerosine near Alleppey. The Deputy President referred to it the other day; and to-day Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has referred to it. This question has attracted my attention also. In fact, as soon as I began the survey of the State, the question of the mudbanks at Alleppey and Narakal drew my attention. There are some old records about these mudbanks and I have those records in my office. Ancient mariners had referred to it. General Cullen, Resident in Travancore and Cochin, who was very much interested in geology, was assisted by Mr. Crawford in carrying on geological explorations in Alleppey and other places. The mudbanks drew the attention of General Cullen and Mr. Crawford. They wanted to find out why these exist there. Mr. Crawford put forward the theory that the mudbanks are due to a subterranean stream from the backwater into the sea and he supposed that one terminus of that subterranean stream is in the Pamba river. He describes that he went to Chengannur where with lead and line he tried to fathom the stream, and that he lost the lead and line, and therefore could not do it. I also went there. I wanted to see whether I could fathom it myself. I had no lead and line. I took a stone and tied it to one end of a rope and asked one of my men to drop it. I was able to find out the depth. It is about 40 feet deep, or 50 feet from the level of the land. I also asked the people, who dive there for fishing, about the nature of the land underneath. They said that it was all rocky. In fact there is no subterranean stream; and Mr. Crawford's theory that the stream extends from Chengannur is incorrect. From my own knowledge of the geological structure of the country, I can say with certainty that such a subterranean stream cannot exist. My reasons are rather very technical and so I do not want to go into details here.

Subsequently, Dr. King of the Geological Survey of India came here. He wanted to study the mudbanks. There is one peculiar property of these mudbanks. Even when the sea all round is boisterous, it is very calm over the mudbanks. This calmness of the water over the mudbanks was attributed to oil. It is known to scientists that, when there is oil floating on water, the water will not be disturbed easily. There is even a proverb about pouring oil on troubled waters. This is because oil reduces the surface tension of the water. The strength of the waves is thus reduced and there is a still surface of water. So, Dr. King supposed that it might be due to the presence of oil there. He therefore took a little of the mud and got it analysed at Calcutta. He was able to get one or two drops of oil. There is nothing surprising in that discovery. There is a lot of decaying organic matter in those mudbanks. It is a well-known fact that all organic matter may give some oil when distilled. It is not due to any subterranean oil reserve. From my own point of view, I would be very glad to investigate and try whether there is any such subterranean oil reserve. But we have to get down machines for boring holes, which are very expensive. Before I make a recommendation to Government to incur that expenditure, I should eliminate all other possible causes of this phenomenon. Mere laymen, people who have no responsibility, may make recommendations in newspapers. There are other possible factors which may cause that calm over the mudbanks. I do not want to enter into these details also here.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Am I to understand that it is not worth while investigating that question? I merely drew his attention to a serious contribution on the subject in a leading South Indian paper. Mr. Chacko does not tell us that, as a result of his independent investigation, he has come to the conclusion that the subterranean oil reserve does not exist. What I wish to ask him is whether in his judgment it is not worth while enquiring into the matter.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It will be very interesting from a scientific point of view. I must say that there is no proof of the existence of oil there. There is no direct proof which will justify any expenditure on the part of Government. For my part, I should like to see whether the Varkalai formation exists there also.

Then, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai said that I was unduly interfering with my Geological Assistant.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Chacko whether, during the last fifteen years, any scheme for the utilisation of the mineral wealth of the State has been formulated by the State Geologist.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): First of all, I may say that that is not one of the legitimate functions of the Geological Department. The legitimate function of that department is only to give all the data necessary. The rest is for the Industries Department.

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): My question was whether, during the last fifteen years, the Geological Department has given enough data to enable Government to embark on any such scheme.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): As I said in the beginning, the programme of the department was to make a systematic map of Travancore. In the letter which I referred to, the Director of the Geological Survey of India has stated that all economic enquiries should be postponed until the whole country had been mapped out. We have to do things one after another.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know from Mr. Chacko how long it will take to prepare a systematic map of Travancore?

MR. I. C CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It will depend on the number of persons engaged in the work.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): What will be the time taken by the existing staff to prepare a systematic map?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): One surveyor has been plotting it. It has only to be re-touched now.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I wish to know when it was plotted.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): About two or three years ago.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): What has been the work of the department subsequent to that?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Immediately after the receipt of that report, I was put in charge of the Industries Department and we have been carrying on special surveys. I will now describe—

PRESIDENT: The survey has already been embodied in a book. Why did you not say that?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I thought there was no necessity for that. A map also has been published and I thought every one would have seen it.

The existence of kaolin—china clay—was found out by the geological survey and my Chemical Assistant has been carrying on experiments with the same. He has succeeded in making excellent stoneware with it and is now carrying on experiments in the manufacture of porcelain. I think our investigation as far as kaolin is concerned is complete and anybody can start a factory. There are good prospects for it. That is one economic mineral which the Geological Department has found out.

Then there is the question of lignite. Samples of lignite have been sent outside and experiments have been conducted to see whether we

can use it for industrial purposes. We take up these economic questions one by one.

Somebody asked me as to what my Assistant has been doing. He is doing a large amount of work.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): What will be the approximate cost of conducting the investigation at Alleppey?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): A boring machine would cost Rs. 15,000; and then perhaps we may have to spend about Rs. 10 per foot and go to a depth of 500 feet.

PRESIDENT: They have been doing it in British Cochin, which has cost them over a lakh of rupees.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes. There will be a lot of trouble also.

I am the head of the department and I am responsible for the work of my subordinates. If any advice was in demand, I could give it to my subordinates. If that is to be regarded as interference, I do not know how the work of the department can get on, especially in the case of the Geological Assistant. Everybody knows that I was, for years, the State Geologist. I therefore claim to know the geology of the country much better than my Assistant and therefore it is my duty—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I wish to know whether the statement made by me that the Assistant was sent to North Travancore is correct.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It is true. I sent him and I shall explain the circumstances.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is necessary for you to explain the reasons.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Then, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai said that the Geological Department did not discover any minerals. As a geologist, I shall not consider it as a source of pride to discover minerals. These discoveries are usually made by ordinary men. For example, I may refer to the lignite at Varkalai. It might have been a cooly who discovered it. The function of the geologist is not so much to discover as to find out the relation of minerals with the existing geological formations. When the occurrence of a new mineral has been reported, the next thing is to find out its relation, its extent and all its future possibilities. This is the function of the department.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether any scientific fact has been elicited by the Travancore Geological Department about the use of lignite which has not been known to the scientific world.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Many.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I asked only about lignite.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Not about lignite.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: He meant in relation to the minerals in Travancore.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The existence of lignite in Travancore became known to the world through the geological reports of the department. It is true that Mr. Schomburg discovered monazite. But a report about that mineral was published by the Travancore Government as a result of the systematic survey conducted by the Geological Department of the State. In that report, which is now out of print, an account is given as to how this monazite is derived and how it comes from the disintegration products of the Travancore rocks and in what places it might be found and in how many—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, may I know whether all that was not done after Mr. Schomburg discovered the mineral?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, it was after the discovery. I do not claim the credit for the discovery of monazite. But it is the Geological Department that established its relation to the existing geological formation. The same may be said with regard to lignite. We have been carrying on prospecting operations for pyrrhotite.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the substance that you refer to?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Pyrrhotite. It can be better used as a sulphur ore than for the manufacture of iron. We generally carry on prospecting operations for—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has Mr. Chacko chemically examined it from a commercial standpoint? Is the experiment on sulphur from that particular ore liable to be viewed with favor?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes. It is iron sulphide. That is used in the manufacture of sulphuric acid.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): So, it is a commercial proposition if the quantity is enough.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes. It has to be decided from the quantity available.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am drawing attention to the percentage of sulphur.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I can calculate it. Fe_{11} S_{12} is usually the formula. I can calculate from it.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai wants to know is whether you have ascertained the contents of that stuff.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, I have done it. I have nothing more to add.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have nothing to add.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I also have nothing more to say.

PRESIDENT: Do you press this motion to a vote, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to make a few observations.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid you are too late. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has waived his right of reply and Mr. Chacko has also done the same. So I put this motion to the vote of the Council.

The motion was put to vote and lost, 7 voting *for* and 25 *against*.

Motion 337.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

337. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for Geological Establishment.

Motion 338.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*) Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

338. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,369 for Industries Establishment by Rs. 100.*

The allotment is for the weaving and the apiculture establishments.

In regard to weaving, I shall be glad to know what improved methods have been adopted during the year.

With respect to apiculture, we find this statement in the Administration Report of 1097: "Government note with regret the retrogression in this branch of work after it once showed signs of popularity." It was in 1096 that the apiculture branch of the department which was till then only temporary was made permanent and was amalgamated with the office of the Director of Industries. The Report of 1096 says that this industry had spread to other parts of the country like Nagercoil, etc.

The work of this branch of the department consists mainly in popularising improved methods of bee-keeping. It will therefore be instructive to know what was the cause of the retrogression in this branch of work.

I understand that there is considerable scope for improvement in this industry, as by the domestication of rock-bees, raising of new species by crossing, etc.

I wish also to emphasise the fact that apiculture ought to form a branch of the Agricultural Department and not of the Department of Industries. The bees thrive well in places where there are plenty of flowers. Bee-rearing can be spread more easily, if the several demonstration farms of the Agricultural Department were asked to maintain

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

hives in those farms. If the subordinates of that department are given some training in bee-keeping there is every chance of this industry being more and more adopted by the people. The presence of a few hives in each farm will induce the people of the locality to have hives of their own; the sudordinates of the Agricultural Department could also be asked to give them the necessary instructions.

In the Punjab, in Mysore, Pusa and other places, bee-keeping is carried on by the Agricultural Department. Apiculture is only a branch of the Agricultural Department and not of the Department of Industries.

I would therefore suggest that this branch of the Industries Department should be transferred to the Agricultural Department.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, with reference to the last motion, I wanted to raise the question of general policy. I am glad this motion gives me an opportunity to do so. Year after year, we on this side of the House have been complaining about the inadequate results achieved by the developmnet departments, whether it be Agriculture or Industries, Co-operation or Forest. Year after year—

PRESIDENT: This does not arise here. The motion relates to weaving and apiculture.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): It is the general question of industries.

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The motion is to reduce the total allotment under Industries—Establishment.

PRESIDENT: The allotment is for weaving and apiculture as the mover himself has said.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I shall be guided by the language of the motion. As the language stands, I am entitled to speak.

PRESIDENT: That is true. But if you refer to the budget, you will see that the allotment is for a particular purpose.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I shall then withdraw.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai wanted to know the purpose for which the itinerant inspectors are appointed.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): It was not for that purpose. I want to know whether any new schemes are contemplated.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It is proposed to start a demonstration weaving factory in Trivandrum and the money has been provided for that in the budget. About apiculture—

PRESIDENT: Will you please explain in detail about the weaving institute?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Here in Trivandrum we will have a central technical institute. When the scheme is completed, weaving will be one of the most important subjects. Immediately, we are going to establish a Central Technological Institute when a building has been put up for that purpose. That building cannot be completed in a short time. So we propose to have as a beginning a temporary shed put up in the School of Arts premises. We will have to improve the looms and also instruction will be given in dyeing; and the textile expert will supervise the work of these itinerant instructors all over the country. Just now, as the Council may be aware, I have got one peripatetic instructor who goes about the country giving instruction and advice to the weavers. But one is not sufficient. I get many requisitions from different parts of the country. It is found that at least two itinerant instructors are necessary. These itinerant instructors will take patterns of improved looms from the central establishment and popularise them in the country.

MR. J. JOHN NIDHRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know from Mr. Chacko whether the weaving industry has not already been popularised in south Travancore and whether it is not in north Travancore that the people stand in need of it?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Weaving is spreading in north Travancore also, rather taking root, and we are trying to spread it there.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is the department doing anything for popularising spinning?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No. We are not doing anything ourselves.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is there no instructor for that?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is possible to send some one to north Travancore?

PRESIDENT: It is with that view that we are having at least one additional man.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have they, the itinerant instructors, anything like a permanent office in north Travancore?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No, but they will be camping in various places.

As regards apiculture, I also think that it is a very useful occupation. In America, for example, there are big apiaries and these apiculturists make enormous profits. One essential condition for the existence of apiculture is forest. Everybody knows bees collect honey from flowers. So this apiculture can thrive more on the borders

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

of forests and also where there is toddy-tapping. Bees are licensed thieves and they get into toddy pots. I agree with Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai in thinking that it is better to place it under the Agricultural Department. I am not very anxious to keep it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, weaving was the cottage industry practised by one of our first parents—Eve. Spinning and weaving are connected with the national movement, the *charka* being the emblem of the movement. I came across several people in Kadakavur near Anjengo who have taken to weaving, some of them whose occupation before was tapping. But the cloth woven by them is of inferior quality. I am glad to hear from the Director of Industries that a technical institute is to be established in Trivandrum. I hope similar institutes will be opened in other parts of the country and that many more people will take to weaving.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നു പല കാൎയ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി പലവിധം ചിലവുചെയ്യുവരുന്നു എന്ന് പത്രം വഴിയായും മററും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇതിൻെറ അനുഭവം തീരെ എത്തീട്ടില്ല. കോട്ടയത്തിനു വടക്കുവശം യാതൊരു വ്യവസായവും പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കയോ ഗ്രാൻറു കൊടുക്കയോ ചെയ്യുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നില്ല. നെയ്ത്തു തന്നെ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ പണ്ടേ നടന്നുവരുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. അധികം ഉള്ളവൎക്കുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കുക എന്ന സമ്പ്രദായം മററുഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പോലെ തന്നെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറും സ്വീകരിച്ചു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ നെയ്ത്തു പ്രചരിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ വളരെ നന്നായിരുന്നു. വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ളവൎക്കു ഗ്രാൻറുകൊടുത്തു നെയ്ത്തു വ്യവസായത്തിനു വല്ലതും പ്രോത്സാഹനം ചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഡയറക്ടർതന്നെ പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം. വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഇതിലേക്കു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ചിലവുചെയ്യുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതു നല്ലതാണെന്നു ഞാനും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ചില ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ഇതെല്ലാം ചിലവുചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മററുഭാഗത്തുള്ളവൎക്കു വളരെ സങ്കടകരമായിരിക്കും. എന്നുമാത്രമല്ല, അതു രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതു ശ്രേയസ്സിനു ഹാനികരവുമായിരിക്കും. ഞാൻ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെപ്പററി പറയുമ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തെ മാത്രം ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു പറയുന്നു എന്നു തോന്നുമായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ യാതൊരു പ്രോത്സാഹനവും ലഭിക്കാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കേണ്ടത് എൻെറ കടമയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വി

ചാൎജരെ. അതിനാൽ ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ വ്യവസായധന്യങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകം ഗവൎമ്മെന്റ് പതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇത്ര മാത്രമേ എനിക്ക് ഇതിനെപ്പററി പറയാനുള്ളു.

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I am also informed, and I believe correctly so, that except in Travancore, bee-keeping is carried on by the Agricultural Department and that it is a unique anomaly that only in Travancore the apicultural section of the department is taken out of its natural place and is grafted on to the Department of Industries. This false alliance has been noticed both by the public and the press. It has been suggested that the apicultural section should be transferred to its natural place.

Agricultural experts, who have been tackling the problem of improving fruit and fruit trees, have found out that pollination is indispensable for fruit production and that under cross pollination the yield of the tree is greatly enhanced and the quality of the fruit is considerably improved, and that the bee is one of the chief agents in promoting cross pollination. Thus apiculture becomes intimately connected with agriculture.

We have now the demonstration apiary at Trivandrum and its activities are mainly confined to the town. The Bee Expert is of course touring round the country, instructing people in bee-culture. But, if something substantial should be done, apiculture must be transferred to the Agricultural Department. The Bee Expert can easily train the Agricultural Inspectors or others in charge of the experimental and demonstration farms in the several taluks and thereby bee-rearing can be spread easily all over the State without incurring extra cost. The presence of a few bee-hives in each farm will induce people of the locality to have hives of their own, and when the fact that the improvement of the fruits in the several farms is partly due to the presence of the hives comes to the knowledge of the agriculturist, he will be all the more desirous of having some hives in his own farm. The local men trained by the apiculturist can help and advise the farmers to instal hives and the little difficulties that crop up in the course of their attempts at bee-rearing can be overcome by local help.

I, therefore, take pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): It is not because the Director of Industries may not be able to bestow any attention on this matter that I suggested that it might be transferred to the Agricultural Department. It appeared to me that this bee-keeping is eminently fitted to be a bye-occupation to the agricultural population; and it is because bees are useful for this very purpose that I made this suggestion. There are a good many departmental farms in the State and it would be certainly advantageous for us if it is introduced in the Agricultural Department.

PRESIDENT: Do you press this motion?

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): I do not press it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 339.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

339. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,700 for travelling allowance by Rs. 2,200.

Motion 340.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

340. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,400 for scholarships and stipends by Rs. 2,000.

This sum for scholarships and stipends is not of much importance here now. The recipients of stipends and scholarships in Travancore gain nothing after the course of examination.

PRESIDENT: Gain what?

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Gain nothing after passing the examination. I know many persons who have passed examinations but are wandering about for want of any job. So, let us consider and see how these diploma-holders thrive in the State. I do not know whether stipends and scholarships given to students outside the State are included in this item. I should like to know that from Mr. Chacko. I think we can reduce an amount of Rs. 2,000 on these two items together.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, the sum of Rs. 5,400 is provided for the scholarship awarded to Mr. Gopala Menon who is in England. This sum will just cover his scholarship which the Government are bound to pay him next year.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What about the stipends and scholarships given here?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): They are not included in this sum.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Then I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 341.

The following motion was not made:

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

341. To omit the allotment of Rs. 700 for prospecting charges.

Motion 342.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

342. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,900 for purchase of apparatus and chemicals and laboratory fittings for experiments in oils.

My submission is that we might well take advantage of the experiments that have been made elsewhere and see whether there is any industry that could be started on a commercial scale, so far as oils in Travancore are concerned. I contend that no new or fresh experiment need be made here.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, Mr. Raman Pillai says that no experiments need be carried on in Travancore on oils. I do not know what effect arguments could have on one who has come to that conclusion. But, anyhow, I think the members on the other side have been complaining that we are exporting raw materials before manufacturing them into finished products. I suppose the Council will accept that the ideal to be aimed at is the manufacture of raw materials into finished products. Now, oils form one of the chief raw materials in Travancore. Among the oils, cocoanut oil is of course the most prominent. I do not think there is much to be done in that direction, because cocoanut oil, being famous throughout the world, many chemists have found all that could be found out of it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Can Mr. Chacko assure the House that all that could be found out has been found out and nothing new could be discovered?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I cannot affirm that. I think my meaning has been understood by Mr. Velu Pillai.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to ask Mr. Chacko to give us an idea of how butter is made out of cocoanut oil.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): That has already been found out; *we* need not find it out.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): But butter is not manufactured out of oil in Travancore.

PRESIDENT: That is for the business-man.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): With regard to butter I may say—

PRESIDENT: You are not in possession of the House. You cannot answer Mr. Hoogewerf now.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): As he put a question, I thought I might explain the matter to him now.

PRESIDENT: You can do it afterwards in your speech, after Mr. Chacko has sat down.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Besides cocoanut oil, we have a large quantity of fish oil being exported. The Oil Chemist has been making a survey of oil seeds found in Travancore, visiting various centres and finding out from merchants and others what kind of oil-seeds could be had in various places in Travancore. An important item on which he has made a report is fish oil. He finds that a large quantity of it is available here. The oil is not extracted because there is no great demand for it in the raw state in which it is supplied in

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

Travancore. Well, the fish oil affords a large field for work. Then there is the laurel oil—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I wish to know whether the Fishery Inspector is making any experiment with regard to the fish oil.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I do not know.

PRESIDENT: He cannot make experiments on fish oil, but only on fish.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has the Agricultural Chemist in the Agricultural Department carried on any investigation in regard to fish oil?

PRESIDENT: I do not know if Mr. Chacko can say what experiments are being carried on by the Agricultural Department.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): And then there is the laurel oil, the *marotti* oil—.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): What is laurel oil?

PRESIDENT: *Punnakka ennai*.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): These oils are useful for candle and soap-making and for the manufacture of lubricating oils. All these we have to investigate.

About the Oil Chemist, I have to point out that his designation is something in the nature of a misnomer. It is true that the present Oil Chemist has specialised in oils; but, besides, he is an all-round chemist who has had a good training in chemistry in the Liverpool University. Every Industries Department should have on its staff an Industrial Engineer and a Chemist. These two form, I think, the essential minimum of the staff of an Industries Department. In almost all the Industries Departments, you will find that a Chemist and also an Industrial Engineer and other experts are employed. But the Textile Expert and the Tanning Expert are of local importance only. In some countries, the Tanning Expert may not be necessary. But an Industrial Engineer and Chemist are quite necessary in any department of Industries. Every industry has an engineering aspect and most industries have a chemical aspect. Our Oil Chemist is appointed to further chemical industries; of course, cottage industries form an important part of the work of the Industries Department. But, still, to develop the country to its fullest extent we must have a chemist too. Unfortunately this chemist has been named Oil Chemist because he has specialised—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Cannot these experiments be made in the College Laboratory?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Not all; some of them may be made. The College Laboratory is equipped for teaching purposes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Could not the experiments about oil be made there? I read something about some such experiment in the Administration Report.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): That is about essential oil. Professor Moudgill is doing some experiments with regard to that. But in regard to fatty oils, we have to do the work ourselves.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is meant by essential oil?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): We shall have to enter into an abstruse discussion to explain that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know how many experiments have been conducted by the Oil Chemist since his entertainment?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): He has had no opportunity to make any experiments. He has been making a survey of the country. He is studying the possibility of extending the supply of seeds. He has sent up a report which is before the Government.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Chacko says is that the Chemist has completed his survey and that this provision is made just to enable him to begin his experimenting work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether any butter has been made here out of cocoanut oil and demonstrated to the public.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No, the Industries Department has not done anything in that direction.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the department proposes to enter into the question of ascertaining the chemical composition of these various oils?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The department wants to encourage the industry that may be started.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Will the member please give the names of some possible industries that may be started?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Soap-making and candle-making. There is some soap-making here; now it is done by the cold process. The difficulty in the cold process is that you cannot finely adjust the proportion of caustic soda and oil.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Could we not profit by the experiments made outside the State?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): In some cases we do profit by that. But I must tell him that even to understand the researches made elsewhere there must be somebody who knows the subject.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The motion before the House is to reduce the allotment for the purchase of apparatus and chemicals.

[President.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Chacko, he wants to know what is the need for local research. Could you not profit by the research elsewhere?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Such things have not been investigated abroad.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): For example?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Laurel oil.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Does he mean to say that laurel oil has not been subjected to experiment hitherto?

PRESIDENT: There are other oils; there is the fish oil.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyttinkara*): I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure was put and duly carried.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): The immediate object of local research may be explained.

PRESIDENT: Yes, Mr. Chacko may explain it in his reply.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have nothing to say.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I will take laurel oil. We have to find out the constitution of the oil. We have to get rid of the nasty smell of the laurel oil. All these can be accomplished in the case of other oils. But this has not been done with regard to laurel oil. Similarly with regard to other oils.

As I said before, the Oil Chemist is in charge of not only the research on oils but also of other chemical problems that come up before the department. For the investigation of it, a laboratory is necessary.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Has he proposed any scheme for oil industries?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, he has proposed a scheme and it is before the Government.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion, Mr. Raman Pillai?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I press it to the vote.

PRESIDENT: I will say a few words in regard to what I think is the function of this Chemist. This Chemist and other Experts whom we have recently entertained are put first of all on survey work. This Oil Chemist has already completed the survey and he has made his report. I have read it. He has to go round and tour the country. He has to find out what raw products could be had and the quantities in which they could be had. Then we have to see whether there is a market for them and whether it is worth while experimenting upon things which could be had only in stray places. If we are satisfied that a large quantity of an article could be obtained, we will see that it is pressed into crude oil for being exported or otherwise used. Then it

is the function of the Chemist to see for what purposes that article could be used— whether it could be converted into soap or candle or lubricants. Some of the oils are of a highly medicinal value like the *marotti* oil which Mr. Chacko mentioned. These oils are used for diverse purposes. Then it is for the department to see whether it can now demonstrate and push these things and recommend them to the public for private enterprise. That is the idea. This Oil Chemist, as Mr. Chacko explained, is not an oil chemist alone but is a chemist for the whole department. And this provision is for his research work. If Mr. Raman Pillai still wishes the motion to be put to the vote, I shall do so.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I withdraw it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 343.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I beg to make the following motion :—

343. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for equipment, tools, etc., for the Tanning Expert.

I submit that tanning has been made a fine art elsewhere and therefore no profitable use would be made by further experiments on that. If it is supposed that the industry may be done on a factory scale, that too may be done without resorting to any experiment.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : Sir, the object of my demand for the Tanning Expert is not to start a tanning factory. For the present at least, it is not the object of the Department of Industries to run a tannery on a factory scale. We have very many kinds of tanning materials in Travancore. For example, this morning, before I came to the Council, I had an enquiry from Sweden for the extract of mangrove. It is called in Malayalam *kandal.* It grows abundantly along the backwaters at Shertallai, Trikkunnapuzha and other places. There are various other indigenous tanning materials.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : Are they peculiar to Travancore?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : No.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Then other countries might have investigated their properties.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : Yes. They have made reports and I have read one of them. In the Philippine Islands and the Sunderbands, there are mangroves. But the tanning quality varies from place to place. Mr. Pilgrim who has investigated this says that the tanning property varies from place to place. I have that report with me. As I told you, the quality varies from place to place. Our mangroves have therefore to be investigated.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : I wish to know whether in 1098 there had been conducted any research or experiments in tanning worth mentioning in this Council.

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: No experiments have been made.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Last year we sanctioned a sum.

PRESIDENT: To entertain an expert, not for experiments.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the Tanning Expert has done any substantial work, whether any tangible results have followed, and whether it is possible to find out a way in which work may be done.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes. He has sent a report to Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I want to know whether any particular course of action has been recommended; I do not want to know whether he has sent up a report.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes. What he has done is to suggest that a demonstration in tannery should be started for testing the tanning materials in Travancore and giving an impetus to the tanning industry in Travancore. I find from the statistics that about 1,50,000 hides have been exported besides 10,500 hides locally tanned.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether this was not the expert who, we were told, was in search of water for tanning? (*Laughter.*)

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether he has come across a sufficient quantity of water? (*Laughter.*)

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, he has.

Of this large number of hides and skins, I understand only about 12,000 are tanned within the State. The export of these skins and hides in the raw state is an extravagant practice. That is because these untanned hides become deteriorated; and when they reach the place where they are bought their value becomes less. In British India—I do not know tanning myself, but I have read a number of reports from the departments of industries—I know large quantities of these hides are now exported in the semi-tanned condition. Anyhow we have the profits of manufacture in the semi-tanned kind. In Cochin a factory has been established which is trying the finishing of leather. But there is a difficulty there. We can dispose of finished leather only; in all civilised countries, they have a big tariff wall against finished leather.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether the Cochin tannery is working satisfactorily from a commercial standpoint.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I heard at one time that it was not working satisfactorily. I do not know how it is now.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know how it is working now.

PRESIDENT: There is no reliable information.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It is conceded by all that it will be a paying thing to tan the leather in the country and to export it in the semi-tanned condition.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know if this is the discovery made in 1098?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No, this is not a discovery.

Now the question to be decided is whether we should export all these hides and skins in the raw state or in a more or less manufactured condition. The consensus of opinion is that we should manufacture these materials either into fully finished or partly finished products. For this purpose, I think it is necessary to go on with these experiments. The tanning done in the country, I understand, is in a very crude way. There are two or three chrome tanneries at Chengannur which turn out a few crude hides. There is a tannery at Quilon where tanning is done by vegetable materials. The intention is to have the semi-tanned leather intended for export tanned with vegetable tanning materials. Chrome-tanned materials are not bought abroad. My object in making this demand is to see whether we can semi-tan the hides and skins now available in Travancore in the shape of raw materials and demonstrate to the people the possibilities of that industry.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I support this motion. Last year we were told that the Tanning Expert was appointed on probation for one year to ascertain the quantity of skins and hides in the country and the quantity of proper water available for the purpose and for the selection.

PRESIDENT: Not the quantity, but the places where proper water was available.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): We were told as follows:—

> "The selection of a site is a very important thing. A large quantity of water of a particular quantity is required for running a tannery, and a large quantity of tan-yard refuse has to be disposed of without causing public nuisance. These are some of the duties the Tanning Expert has now to attend to. What use we may make of him in the future will depend largely on the results of the present investigations".

Further it was observed by the President last year:—

> "A Tanning Expert will have to find out whether he has got the required quantity of hides and skins, and if so, of what quality, and see whether there are places where the industry could be profitably introduced".

I think by this time the Tanning Expert might have found out the quantity of hides and the places where proper water could be had. If these things are found out, what should be done is to establish a tanning factory in Travancore and to demonstrate to the people the usefulness of the tanning industry.

PRESIDENT: That is exactly what Mr. Chacko says we are going to do. A demonstration factory, that is what he says. It is not on

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

a factory scale, but only to demonstrate tanning by means of the various materials available.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Even now tanning is done in various parts of Travancore and Mr. Chacko was telling us that the tanning done in Travancore was very crude and it is to demonstrate better tanning that this money is to be spent. But I think, if the utility of tanning is not demonstrated to the people by starting a factory and then handing over that factory to private agency, the tanning industry will not thrive in Travancore. For that purpose, the allotment proposed is inadequate.

PRESIDENT: I think there is a misunderstanding. What Mr. Chacko told you is that it is not the intention of the Government to start a factory on a factory scale or a business scale but to start a demonstration station where the various processes of tanning by means of different local materials could be conducted and demonstrated to the people, where the various tanning materials could also be experimented upon and the results of tanning with those materials could also be demonstrated to the people—that is what he said. He said it would be a small factory, a factory for demonstration purposes merely.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): He is now for experimenting; and demonstration can be had only after experiment.

PRESIDENT: It is for experiment and demonstration. Both must be carried on side by side.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I have nothing to add.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I think Mr. Madhava Variar asked whether it was the intention of Government to hand over this factory to private agencies, and he complained that the money provided is not enough. The tanning industry can be started with any amount of capital, even with Rs. 100. All that you want—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why then do you want all this money? Why not Government start it with Rs. 100?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Government should do all this. We have to demonstrate all this. If that is to be enlarged later on, there is no difficulty in it, provided we choose the site properly now.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the site selected for demonstration?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): We have not come to any definite conclusion.

PRESIDENT: Louder, please.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): But I may say that we have selected the abandoned agricultural farm near Karamanai. So this small factory may be expanded to any size which the Government may deem necessary later on.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will there be a school to teach tanning along with demonstration?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It is not now definitely in contemplation; but a school will have to be attached.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is not Alwaye water better than Karamanai water?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): But then there is one defect about it. This tannery should be as near as possible to the central laboratory here. All the research work has got to be done there; and at the same time the tannery cannot be within the municipal limits. So we want it just outside the municipal limits, but, as far as possible, near the laboratory.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, do you press this motion?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 344 to 355.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

344. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for general equipment.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

345. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for general equipment by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

346. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for experiments in pottery.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

347. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for experiments in pottery by Rs. 500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

348. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for contributions.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

349. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,200 for contributions by Rs. 500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

350. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 49,464 for Direction by Rs. 7,200.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

351. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 49,464 for Direction by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

352. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,418 for Industrial School of Arts by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

353. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for First Assistant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

354. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,281 for Technical Instruction by Rs. 8,614.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

355. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,792 for Industrial Engineer and Chief Boiler Inspector by Rs. 100.

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Motion 356.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to move the following:—

356. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·35 lakhs under Demand XIV by Rs. 100.

Sir, the intention of the Industries Department is to protect certain indigenous industries and promote industries on a large scale. The department has been hitherto trying to popularise certain cottage industries in the country, and the chief cottage industry to which the attention of the department has been directed is the weaving industry. But the department has not undertaken to do any propaganda work with regard to spinning. Spinning was a thriving cottage industry in Travancore. But on account of the importation of foreign yarn and the starting of mills, the industry has considerably waned in this country. So, to resuscitate that industry, the department has to do sufficient propaganda work; and we were told by Mr. Chacko that even an inspector in spinning is not appointed by the department. It may be argued that when we get foreign yarn there is no use in popularising spinning in this country. We may get foreign yarn easier than local yarn or even double the quantity of it for the same price. But what we have to do is to protect our industry which has been destroyed by the importation of foreign yarn. So, I think, the Department of Industries must bestow particular attention upon the popularising of spinning as a cottage industry in the country.

Another point which I have to emphasise is that the Department of Industries has not proposed any scheme on a large scale for the industrial regeneration of the State. Hitherto the department was satisfied with experiments; and even now the department is trying to make researches with regard to the various industries. Nothing has come out of these researches. I think the industrial salvation of this country depends upon the starting of certain big industries by the Government and by handing them over to the people; then only will the people be able to come forward with their capital to start these industries. I make this motion to bring these points to the notice of the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I was rather eager to speak on a question of general policy connected with the Industries Department and that is due to the fact that I am eager to obtain some results for the money we have been spending for a number of years on the Development Departments. Each time, Sir, these departments come for a grant before this Council, these Development Departments—all of them—say that there are certain very important experiments being performed by their competent staff, and that, if only we give them the allotments asked for, they will be able to show tangible results and to establish prosperity where to-day there exists nothing but poverty. We have been listening to these speeches for a very long time. Government also in perfect good faith have accepted the testimony of departmental heads with regard to the possible success of the measures initiated

by them. But to one who reads the annual reports of these Development Departments carefully, Sir, it would occur that, year after year, this same kind of facts—I would even say, almost the same sentences—are repeated, though certain figures are selected in a very dexterous fashion to serve the purpose of withholding from the world the truth about the actual working of the particular departments. I do not for one moment want to condemn the activities of these departments. I am only saying this because of a desire to see something tangible, so that, if the present generation is asked to contribute the profits of their labour to the successful termination of this work, it should be because they should see that their successors at any rate will be benefited by this vast series of experiments performed by the different departments of the Government. Sir, the working of these Development Departments—I am speaking with particular reference to the Department of Industries because we are considering that department—the working of these departments is not as satisfactory as it should be. Government are to a very great extent handicapped because each of them is a technical department. I am for taking stock of the success achieved by these various departments; and it will be necessary to appoint a person or a body of persons with sufficient technical skill, whether from Travancore or outside, to examine carefully their working during the last fifteen or twenty years, to suggest improvements if improvements are necessary, and to lay down a scheme which should be worked with advantage. Year after year, Sir, we are invited to a happy valley in the future, where the scientific departments will diminish the difficulties of the future. But I for one should decline that kind invitation. Mr. Chacko has observed that bees gather honey from flowers; but we gather the honey of our wisdom from the thorns of our despair, because we fail to see any adequate recompense for the sums that the Government have been sanctioning for the upkeep of these departments. I do not want to talk at length on this motion, Sir. But the point I wish to impress upon this House is that we should not, from time to time, lay the flattering unction to our soul that we are now in the course of progress towards a happy termination of things, for the simple reason that we are given sanguine assurances based on general principles known to all the world. I am for a due enquiry being instituted; and, if these Development Departments want more money, this Council will certainly rise equal to the occasion and give them all that they want. But a disquisition about the necessity of scientific training, about the necessity of experiments and a kind of involved and laborious story with regard to the doing of this particular department or that will not any further commend itself to this House. With these words, I am very glad to support Mr. Madhava Variar's motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The history of the Industries Department in Travancore we cannot be proud of. It is one of mistakes and failures. All experiments more or less lead on to a blind alley. There are tremendous possibilities for industries in Travancore. It is useless harping on what is already past. As I said the other day, let the dead past bury its dead. We now have at the head

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

of the department one who is thoroughly conversant with the subject, one who is not only experienced, but who has high educational qualifications which he secured in Europe. I hope that a new chapter will be opened in this department. These are just a few remarks that I have to make on this subject.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): We shall no doubt be thankful if the Industries Department succeeds in starting and bringing to a high state of efficiency any one industry; but personally my whole desire has been to see that the various disorganised struggling industries in the country should be organised and brought to a successful stage by the sympathetic help that the Industries Department, the Co-operative Department and the Agricultural Department in unison can give them. I see there are so many small cottage industries in the country which, owing to want of proper financing, owing to want of proper organisation for buying raw materials and selling them in bulk, and owing to the absence of technical direction, are all struggling and in difficulties. From what has been successfully done in other countries, I am convinced, without aiming at impossible things or pitching our ambition too high, that if these three departments of our Government join together and put their heads together to help the people to organise their industries, a great deal can be done. I merely want to invite the attention of the Government and the departments concerned that they will do something in the way of encouragement and organisation of these small industries; and in the absence of—

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it not the work of the Development Departments?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Yes.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Does it belong to the province of the Economic Development Board?

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Surely not; they might suggest something.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I also agree with my learned friend Mr. Mammen Mappillai in thinking that the department ought to pay more attention to the development of cottage industries than to factory industries, because the factory industries require initiation, organisation and a great deal of capital which it may not be easy to find in a small State like Travancore. But the need for cottage industries is very much felt in the State—occupations in which it is possible to find full time employment for all the labouring classes in the country. In answer to one of the interpellations, I think, made in this session of the Council by one of the members, the Government denied that there are famine months in Travancore. Evidently what the interpellator meant was that there are months in the year in which the labourers in the country are not able to find work, for instance, during the monsoon months. From Mithunam to Chingam, the

Pulayas and other labourers in middle Travancore, especially those who work in the *punja* fields find absolutely no work, and most of them have to starve during six months. It must be the duty and the function of the Industries Department to find out what industries might be introduced for the purpose of occupying the time of these labourers during the months in which it is not possible for them to get any work. Of course, there are other kinds of labourers who, though they are employed during the greater part of the year, are not able to find work for their energies. So I agree with my friend Mr. Mammen Mappillai that much more attention ought to be bestowed upon this aspect of the question than on the development of the so-called factory industries.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Madhava Variar said that the department ought to try to propagate the use of spinning wheels or to do propaganda work on spinning wheels. The spinning wheel which I have in my mind, suggested to me by this speech, is a very simple machine. I do not think that it requires any propaganda work on the part of the Department of Industries. Anybody can easily pick up the practice required for turning out yarn with the *charka*.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): But it is now taught in other places for six or seven months.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): You mean spinning with *charka*?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Yes.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I am not aware of it. May I know whether it is done by the Departments of Industries in other places?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Not by the Department of Industries, but the spinners are taught in several places for carding cotton, etc., for about seven months.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Well, I am not aware of it. I do not think there is anything which requires the endeavours of the department.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Are you prepared to say that, if the department can do anything for that purpose, you will investigate the possibilities of any help being rendered?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I have investigated the possibility. There is nothing to be done. Anybody can make a *charka* and begin spinning.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): And you have not tried it?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): But I have investigated it.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Have you read any work on the subject?

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): On spinning? Yes, I do not say I am—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): There is nothing to study! (*Laughter.*)

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Mr. Madhava Variar then wanted the Government to start industries. The one requisite for starting industries, as the Council may be aware, is money; and then, as the Council has seen, we are dealing with a budget which is only just balancing, and I do not perceive how we can start industries on a large scale.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask whether it is the function of the Director of Industries to think of the question of finance at the initial stage when useful suggestions are to be made.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I must cut my coat according to my cloth. I have to consider the question of finance also before I make recommendations to Government. Well, anyhow these large-scale industries, or some of them at any rate, are too risky for the Government to undertake. The Council may be aware of the Bhadravati Iron Scheme and to what a difficult situation it has now come. And in this scheme more than Rs. 2 crores have been invested. Are we in Travancore able to invest such a large capital in a big industry?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Are there any industries that could be successfully carried on in Travancore without risk?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): There are very many industries; and then again, as it is rather a big question whether it is the business of Government or of the people to start these big industries. So, as Mr. Velu Pillai said, I consider it is not my function to enter into those big questions of politics and economics.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is your function confined entirely to experiments?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Not entirely. Mr. Mammen Mappillai suggested that the Departments of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operative Societies should co-operate to develop the cottage industries of the State. We are doing so as far as we can; and Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai also recommended the development of cottage industries. One of the most important of the cottage industries is weaving, to encourage which we are doing a great deal as I have already told the House. There are other industries, for example, basket-making; the poor Parayas and Pulayas are doing that, especially near about Alwaye, and I made an investigation of the thing.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask if it is true that his Chemical Assistant has discovered a means of making jars from gneiss and granite ?

PRESIDENT: He said that the department has evolved a process of making valuable stoneware.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My further question is whether it is not possible to have it on a large scale and have it manufactured by the State.

PRESIDENT: He has already said that the industry has been demonstrated to a sufficient extent to enable private people to start a factory.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the objection of Government to try the manufacture of jars on a commercial scale ?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Velu Pillai asks what 'objection Government have to start a large factory for the manufacture of jars.'

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I think it is better done by private agencies. We can give all the help they require.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): My question is not answered. It is not a question of the thing being better done by private agencies—

PRESIDENT: It is answered. Government cannot from economic considerations undertake to start these factories. So it was that he said that it is better done by private agencies.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Basket-making industry used to be carried on all over Travancore. Now it is carried on to some extent near Alwaye. These basket-makers are very much handicapped. They do not know how to dispose of the articles. A few people who purchase these things do not treat them very fairly. I made a report on this matter to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He is now taking steps to organise this industry on a co-operative basis.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the encouragement given to the cottage industry in the State by the Industries Department ?

PRESIDENT: He has already mentioned that. Weaving is encouraged.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Any other cottage industries ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): There is the basket-making industry which I have been just mentioning.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is the encouragement given by the Industries Department to that industry ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): We have arranged for the basket manufactured by the basket-makers being collected by the co-operative societies.

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is it done by the Department of Industries?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No, it is not done by the Department of Industries. As I said, I have asked the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to organise one or two co-operative societies to look after this industry. Then there is the screw-pine (ꔶ) industry. We have one or two schools which teach this industry. For example, at Chettikulangara there is a school. I was told that high-caste women once considered it below their dignity to make screw-pine mats; but now—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Does he not know that it has been in existence there for generations?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I am aware of that. The department is trying to spread it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): How?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I am just trying to explain it. After the introduction of the screw-pine industry at Chettikulangara, even high-caste women are weaving mats, etc. Formerly it was confined to particular castes of people. Now I understand that even Nair ladies during their leisure time are employing themselves in making these mats.

I may also say that any other industry which is a cottage industry in the State, when it is brought to the notice of the department, will, of course, be encouraged.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Has anything been done by the department to introduce or encourage some industry among the poor fishermen living on the sea-coast?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Weaving can be introduced among them.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*), (*Deputy President*): Do you supply them with looms on the hire-purchase system and recover the cost later on? It may not be possible for several members of these poor communities to pay the cost in the first instance.

PRESIDENT: That is provided for by the Industrial Loans Rules.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I wish to know whether his attention has been drawn to the condition of the Pulayas and Parayas of the Ambalapuzha taluk and what the department has done.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Yes, my attention has been drawn to their condition. I have been thinking of providing them with suitable work during the rainy seasons. Most of them, I know, are now starving. I know that in my boyhood these people had

been making baskets. But now-a-days they find it difficult to get the necessary articles for the purpose.

PRESIDENT: Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai wanted to know what you have done for them. You must answer that question.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I have written to the Conservator of Forests to know whether reeds and other things could be supplied to these people. This was a point discussed by the Development Board.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I move for a closure.

PRESIDENT: Is the House for a closure? I take it that the motion is carried.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): The object of my motion is to discuss the general policy with regard to the Industries Department; and, in the course of the discussion, two points were clearly brought out, that is, the function of the department is to develop cottage industries and to try as far as possible to promote factory industries also. But I was able to gather from Mr. Chacko's explanation that the department is not doing much for the encouragement of cottage industries. The only industry which is encouraged by the department is the weaving industry and this weaving industry in Travancore does not require any support from the Government. I think most of the weavers in South Travancore will be able to teach the experts in the department in the matter of weaving, and it is not a waning industry in the country. It is not an industry which has to be protected. In reply to my question about spinning, Mr. Chacko's answer was that this industry is a simple thing and that there is nothing to be done by the department, and that no expert need be appointed and so forth. What the department has to do in regard to cottage industries is to organise them and render as much help as possible to promote them. The department, even from its very inception, has been doing nothing appreciable to promote cottage industries, though much is said about cottage industry in the Administration Report and other reports prepared by the department. The department is doing only certain experimental work and supervising certain schools which were managed by the Education Department two or three years ago. That is the chief work of the Industries Department and the results of the experiments are not utilised by the State. I say that the policy adopted by the department is not in the right direction. People do not appreciate the work done by the department at least in regard to the development of cottage industries. There has been no industrial survey of the State. There is no programme for the industrial regeneration of the State. If Government are not prepared to start any industry themselves, mere demonstration will not help the people. They must start industries and show to the people what industries will be successful. These things are not done by the Industries Department. The working of the department hitherto is quite unsatisfactory.

[President.]

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : Mr. Madhava Variar has again emphasised the need for encouraging cottage industries. As I have said, the object of the department is to encourage all possible industries as far as possible. But these things cannot be done in a day. The development of these industries will take time. Mr. Variar then said that the department was not doing anything for the encouragement of weaving and that weavers are capable of teaching the department. I do not propose to claim credit for the Department of Industries. But I may claim credit for the Government in saying that it was through the endeavours of the Government that the fly-shuttle loom became common in Travancore.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What about the Salvation Army people who were conducting a weaving institution?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : I think that, even before them, the Government were doing it at the Nagercoil institute. The Salvation Army has not been doing much in Travancore. It is through the endeavours of Government and the department that the fly-shuttle loom has become so common in Travancore. It is a great improvement upon the old system of weaving, the production being three or four times as much.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Has it anything to do with the Industries Department?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): That is why I have said I do not claim any credit; it was started before the Department of Industries was created. The Department of Industries is now trying to spread the use of fly-shuttle looms. We are supplying loom accessories, and we are trying to demonstrate the use of fly-shuttle for high counts. They now use fly-shuttles for counts up to 60. Even that, only very dexterous weavers could do.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Up to how many counts?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether any improvement has been effected in the existing industries through the efforts of the Industries Department?

PRESIDENT : Yes, in regard to weaving.

MR. P. K. NARYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : That is done by Government.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Any other industry?

MR. I C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*) : Stonewares are manufactured and demonstrated.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Jars?

PRESIDENT : Yes, jars are included in stoneware.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Has any improvement been effected in the coir industry ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The department has had no chance to effect any improvement in the industry. There is requisition from coir manufacturers for methods of dyeing coir yarn. They want the coir yarn to be dyed with particular dyes and I have asked my Textile Expert, who is also an expert in dyeing, to go to Alleppey and demonstrate the methods of dyeing. Those who want to study the process may go there and take lessons.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Has the Textile Expert prepared any indigenous dyes ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No. I am told there are no indigenous dyes which can compete with synthetic dyes. But no experiment has been made.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the attention of the Director of Industries has been drawn to what Sir P. C. Ray has said with respect to indigenous dyes ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I have not read that; but I know that in Travancore there are not any dyes that can compete with them.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Was any experiment made with regard to them ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Some experiments were made before I became the Director. At my instance, a friend of mine has taken up the study of orchilla weed from which an excellent red dye can be manufactured. In fact, that is the best of our dyes. It was used to be employed in former years before synthetic dyes were discovered and it used to be employed for dyeing silk.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): What is its name in Malayalam ?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I do not know its Malayalam name. It is a weed growing on palmyra and other trees.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Turmeric is put forward by Sir P. C. Ray as one of the valuable dyes.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): With due deference to Sir P. C. Ray, who is a personal friend of mine, I must say that it is a very fugitive dye. If you expose it to the sun, in the course of a day or two, it will disappear.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, all the motions under this Demand having been discussed, I now place before the House for its vote the Demand under Industries, Demand XIV, for a grant of Rs. 1·35 lakhs. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

The grant was made.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

DEMAND XV—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·20 lakhs, under Demand XV—Medical Department.

Motion 357.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

457. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,400 for travelling allowance by Rs. 10.

ഇവിടത്തെ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യനും മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും ഒരാളായി തീൎന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യൻ മെഡിക്കൽ വകുപ്പിലെ ഭരണംകൂടി കൈയേററിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ആ സംബന്ധമായ ജോലികൾ നടത്തുന്നതിന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സൎക്കീട്ടുകൾ പ്രധാനമായി കരുതേണ്ടതാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ചികിത്സാനൈപുണ്യവും, ശസ്ത്രക്രിയാപാടവവും തൻെറ മെഡിക്കൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്ക് ഉപദേശരൂപേണ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുകയും, ചികിത്സയിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ അവരുടെ ശക്തിക്ക് അനുരൂപമായ വിധം കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ആ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടസ്ഥാനത്തിനു യോജിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. കഴിഞ്ഞതവണയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യൻെറ സൎക്കീട്ടിനെപ്പററിയും, ആശുപത്രികളുടെ പരിശോധനകളെപ്പററിയും മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിനു അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ മറുപടിയിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"I do not know what Mr. Nilacanda Pillai means by inspection. If by inspection is meant the weighing of drugs and medicines and checking them and looking into the registers, that is not inspection in the full sense of that term, though I do that also. After all, hospitals are meant primarily and mainly for relieving the suffering and curing the sick; and my inspection is with a view to know the quality of work and to determine whether medical subordinates are doing their professional work properly, for checking which I have devised ways and means......................Nevertheless, it ought to be known to the Council that inspection does not and should not consist mainly or wholly in weighing and measuring or examining records. books and registers to see if they are brought up-to-date."

ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യൻെറ ഈ പ്രസംഗം കേൾക്കുന്നതിനും, രണ്ടാമത് അതിനെ വായിച്ചുനോക്കുന്നതിനും ആൎക്കും കൌതുകം തോന്നുന്നതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. എന്നുമാത്രവുമല്ല, ഈ പ്രസംഗംകൊണ്ടു കൌൺസിലിലുള്ള ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബറന്മാരേയും, ആ വഴി ഗവൎൺമെൻറിനെയും തൽകാലം സമാധാനപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന

താണെന്നും സമ്മതിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികൾ പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന് ഓരോന്നായി പരിശോധിക്കാം.

൧൦൯൬-ൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിനുപുറമെ ൨൩ ഡിസ്ത്രിക്റ്റ് ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ കോട്ടയം, നാഗർകോവിൽ, പത്മനാഭപുരം, കൊല്ലംവിക്ടോറിയാ ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ മൂന്നുപ്രാവശ്യം വീതവും, ചങ്ങനാശേരി, നെയ്യാററിങ്കര, കൊല്ലം, തിരുവല്ലാ, വൈക്കം ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ രണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യം വീതവും, ബാക്കിയുള്ള ൧൪ ഡിസ്ത്രിക്റ്റ് ആശുപത്രികൾ ഓരോ പ്രാവശ്യവും പരിശോധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൬-ൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിനുപുറമെ ൩൧ ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ ൨൩ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഓരോപ്രാവശ്യം വീതം പരിശോധിക്കയും ബാക്കിയുള്ള ൮ ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്തു.

൧൦൯൬-ൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിനുപുറമെ സാഹായികധനം വാങ്ങുന്ന ൧൭ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ നെയ്യൂർ ആശുപത്രി മാത്രം രണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യവും, മാർത്താണ്ഡം, നെട്ടങ്ങോലം, നെയ്യൂർ ലെപ്പർ അസൈലം ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഓരോ പ്രാവശ്യവും പരിശോധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. സാഹായികധനം വാങ്ങിവരുന്ന മററു ൧൩ ആശുപത്രികളും ൯൬-ൽ പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തീട്ടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

൯൬-ൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള പരിശോധനകളിൽ ആണ്ടവസാനത്തിലുള്ള മൂന്നു മാസങ്ങളിൽ ൧൯ ഡിസ്ത്രിക്റ്റ് ആശുപത്രികളും ൧൦ ഡിസ്പെൻസറികളും ൩ സാഹായികധനം വാങ്ങുന്ന ആശുപത്രികളും പരിശോധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

൯൬-ൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള പരിശോധനകളിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടു പുറമെയുള്ള ആശുപത്രികളുടെ പരിശോധനകൾ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടി അന്നേദിവസം തന്നെ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു മടങ്ങി എത്തീട്ടുള്ള വിവരംകൂടി നോക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൬ തുലാം ൧൯-നു പത്മനാഭപുരം ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെ മടങ്ങി എത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൬ മകരം ൬൭- നെട്ടങ്ങോലം ഡിസ്പെൻസറിയും, കൊല്ലം ആശുപത്രികളും പരിശോധിച്ചു മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

൧൦൯൭ മേടം ൨൯ന- പത്മനാഭപുരം, കുലശേഖരം, നെയ്യാററിൻകര, ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചു മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭ മിഥുനം ൨൯ന- നാഗർകോവിൽ ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടു മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭ കർക്കടകം ൨൫ന- പാറശ്ശാല, അരുമന, നെയ്യൂർ, മാർത്താണ്ഡം, നെയ്യൂർ ലെപ്പർ അസൈലം ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടു മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭ കർക്കടകം ൩൨ന- കൊല്ലം വിക്ടോറിയാ ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടു മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനി ൧൦൯൮-ലെ കഥയെപ്പററി നോക്കാം. തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിനു വെളിയിൽ ൨൩ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ ൯൮ മിഥുനം ൨൦ന- വരെ ൬ ആശുപത്രികൾ മാത്രമെ ഔദ്യോഗികമായി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു. ൩൧ ഡിസ്പെൻസറികൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ ൪ എണ്ണം മാത്രമെ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു. സഹായധനം വാങ്ങുന്ന ൧൫ ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉള്ളതിൽ ൩ എണ്ണം മാത്രമെ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളു.

൧൦൯൮-ൽ പുറമെയുള്ള ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെ മടങ്ങി എത്തീട്ടുള്ള തുക്കുടി നോക്കാം.

൧൦൯൮ കുംഭം ൧൦ന- പത്മനാഭപുരം ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെ മടങ്ങി തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് എത്തി.

൧൦൯൮ മേടം ൩൧ന- മാർത്താണ്ഡം, ആരുവാമൊഴി ഈ മിഷൻ ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നേദിവസംതന്നെ മടങ്ങിഎത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൮ ഇടവം ൭ന- നാഗർകോവിൽ, ഭൂതപ്പാണ്ടി, കാതറൈൻ ബൂത്ത് ആശുപത്രി ഈ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൮ മിഥുനം ൨൦ന- സമുദ്രതീരത്തുള്ള കുളച്ചൽ ആശുപത്രിയും, മലയോരത്തുള്ള കുലശേഖരം ആശുപത്രിയും പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെ മടങ്ങി.

൧൦൯൭ കർക്കടകം ൩-നു പാറശാല, കൊട്ടാരം, കന്യാകുമാരി ഈ ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെ മടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭ കർക്കടകം ൩൨-നു അരുമന പോയി അവിടത്തെ ഡിസ്പൻസറി പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ട് അന്നുതന്നെമടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൬-ലും ൧൦൯൭-ലും ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷന്റെ സർക്കീട്ടിലുള്ള പരിശോധന ജോലികൾ ഇങ്ങനെയാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടീട്ടുള്ളത്.

മുമ്പെ ഇവിടെ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്മാരായിരുന്ന മാന്യന്മാർ അവരുടെ സർക്കീട്ടുകൾക്ക് എന്തു ചിലവാക്കിവന്നിരുന്നു എന്നും ഇന്നത്തെ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ എന്തു ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നു എന്നും ഉള്ള കണക്കുകൾ കൂടി പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൨-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടിക്ക് ൧,൫൭൪ രൂപായും ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനോടു കൂടി സർക്കീട്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള സിൽബന്തികൾക്ക് ൨൬൭ രൂപായും ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൩-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനു ൨,൪൫൦ രൂപായും, സിൽബന്തികൾക്ക് ൭൯൨ രൂപായും ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൪-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനു ൯൩൯ രൂപായും സിൽബന്തികൾക്ക് ൩൫൫ രൂപായും ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൫-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനു ൧൫൪൨ രൂപായും സിൽബന്തികൾക്ക് ൧൩൩ രൂപായും ചിലവായിരിക്കുന്നു.

൧൦൯൫ മിഥുനം ൧൧-നു ആണ് ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണനെ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

൧൦൯൬-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണൻ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടിക്കായി ൯൩൪ രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കൂടി സിൽബന്തികളെ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ഏർപ്പാടു നിറുത്തുകയും അതിൽ പിന്നീട് ഇതുവരെ ആ ഇനത്തിൽ ചിലവില്ലാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു.

൧൦൯൭-ൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ സഞ്ചാരപ്പടിയിലെ ചിലവ് ൬൧൧ രൂപായായിരുന്നു.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

൧൦൯൮-ലെ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം ൧,൨൦൦ രൂപാ ചിലവാകുമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ പരിശോധനകൾ മരുന്നുകളെ തൂക്കിനോക്കുന്നതും രജിസ്റ്ററുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതും ആണെന്ന് അർത്ഥമാകുന്നുവാണെങ്കിൽ അതും അദ്ദേഹം ചെയ്തു വരുന്നു എന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ സർക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ ആശുപത്രികളെ പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ മരുന്നുകളെ തൂക്കിനോക്കേണ്ടതും രജിസ്റ്ററുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കേണ്ടതും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്ന് ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതികൾ മുഴുവനും ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ തന്നെ ചെയ്വാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ വിശ്വസ്തന്മാരായ കീഴ് സിൽബന്തികളെക്കൂടി സർക്കീട്ടിൽകൊണ്ടുപോയിരുന്നതു. ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണൻ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനായതിൽ പിന്നീട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സർക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ കീഴ്സിൽബന്തികളെ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിലുള്ള ചിലവുണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു കണക്കുകൾ തെളിയിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ ൧൦൯൭-ലും, ൧൦൯൬-ലും ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണൻ നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള സർക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ മരുന്നുകളെ തൂക്കിനോക്കുന്നതിലും രജിസ്റ്ററുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിലും എത്രത്തോളം തൃപ്തികരമായ ജോലികൾ നടത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു മേൽ വിവരിച്ച കണക്കുകൾ ഭംഗിയായി തെളിയിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ പററി ഞാൻ വിസ്തരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റേയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സിൽബന്തികളുടേയും സർക്കീട്ടുകൾകൊണ്ട ആശുപത്രികളിൽ നിന്നും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഫലം ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്നപക്ഷം അതിലേക്കായി എത്രതന്നെ പണം ചിലവാക്കി എന്നിരുന്നാലും അതിനെപ്പററി ആരുംതന്നെ ആക്ഷേപിക്കുമെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണന്റെ കഴിഞ്ഞതവണയുള്ള മറുപടിയിൽ മറെറാരു സംഗതികൂടി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതായത്, ചികിത്സ സംബന്ധിച്ചോ, ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ സംബന്ധിച്ചോ, ഏതെങ്കിലും മെഡിക്കൽആഫീസറന്മാർ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണന്റെ സഹായം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നപക്ഷം ആ സഹായം സാധിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതായും തക്കലെമെഡിക്കലാഫീസരായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ ജാൺ അവിടെ ഒരു ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ നടത്തുന്നതിനായി ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതായും ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണൻ, അവിടെപോയി ആയതു സാധിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതായും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. തക്കലെ മെഡിക്ക

ലാഫീസറായിരുന്ന മിസ്റ്റർ ജാൺ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണനെ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയക്കായി ക്ഷണിച്ചതിനും അദ്ദേഹം അതിലേക്കു പോയതിനും പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചതായ കാരണങ്ങളും അതിന്റെ ഫലം എന്തായിതീൎന്നു എന്നുള്ളതും എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ പല മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസരന്മാരും ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനായ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണനെ വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ കിട്ടുന്നതിനായി ക്ഷണിച്ചുവരുന്നതും അദ്ദേഹം പോയിവരുന്നതും അതിനാൽ അവൎക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഫലങ്ങളും എല്ലാവൎക്കും നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായരൂപത്തിലുള്ള സക്കീട്ടുകൾ മെഡിക്കൽ വകുപ്പിലെ ഭരണത്തെ എങ്ങനെ ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നുള്ള പരമാൎത്ഥങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞുതുടങ്ങുന്നതായാൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ തവണ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ളയോട് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വാക്കുകളെ പിൻവലിക്കാൻ പറഞ്ഞമാതിരി എന്നോടും പറയേണ്ടിവരുമെന്ന് എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. എല്ലാ സംഗതികളിലും സത്യം തന്നെ പറയണമെന്നു കുട്ടിക്കാലങ്ങളിൽ പുസ്തകങ്ങളിലും പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും നിന്നു പഠിക്കയും പഠിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, കുട്ടിക്കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞ് ലോകവുമായി ജീവിതമത്സരത്തിൽ ഇടപെടുമ്പോൾ തുറന്ന ഹൃദയത്തോടുകൂടി സത്യം പറയുന്നതിൽ പലൎക്കും പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും അപകടങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നത് സാധാരണയായി കണ്ടുവരുന്നതാണ് എന്നിരുന്നാലും, നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ സത്യത്തെ ദൈവത്തിൽനിന്നും മറച്ചുവെയ്ക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരാൾക്കോ, ഒരു ഗവൎമ്മെന്റിനോ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായത്തിനായി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണനെ പല മെഡിക്കൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ക്ഷണിച്ചുവരികയും, അദ്ദേഹം കണിശമായി ആയത് അനുസരിച്ചു വരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ അപരിമിതമായ സങ്കടങ്ങളും കഷ്ടങ്ങളും അനുഭവിച്ചുപോരുന്ന സംഗതി ഒരിക്കലും മറച്ചുവെയ്ക്കാവുന്നതല്ല. ഇതിനുംപുറമേ, മനഃസാക്ഷിക്കു വിപരീതമായി വിദഗ്ദ്ധാഭിപ്രായത്തിന് ആവശ്യപ്പെടാത്ത മെഡിക്കൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പല വഴികളിലും നീചമായ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നു. ആലപ്പുഴ മിസ്റ്റർ എൻ. എ. മഹമ്മദുകുഞ്ഞിന്റെ രോഗത്തെ കാണിക്കാനായി അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആളുകൾ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണനെ ആലപ്പുഴ കൊണ്ടുപോയി രോഗിയെ കാണിച്ച് വലുതായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ പ്രതിഫലമായി വാങ്ങിയതിൽപിന്നീട് അതേ വാഹനത്തിൽ അതേ ആളുകളോടുകൂടി അമ്പലപ്പുഴ ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധനകഴിച്ചു മടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ളതായും, അതിലേക്ക് അദ്ദേഹം ഗവൎമ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും മൈലേജും പടിയും വാങ്ങിട്ടു

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ള്ളതായും അറിയുന്നു വാസ്തവമാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെപ്പററി എന്താണ് പറയേണ്ടതെന്നറിയാതെ ഞാൻ വിഷമിക്കുന്നു.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I object to that statement. That is false. I would ask him to withdraw.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It was only hearsay. I only said that, *if it was so*, it was not desirable.

PRESIDENT: You may note it down and reply.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഡർബാർ ഫിസിഷൻ ഡാക്ടർ ലക്ഷ്മണൻ ഒരു ചികിത്സകൻെറ നിലവിട്ടിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ൧൨ വഷങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹം "Consultation" practice മാത്രമെ വച്ചിട്ടൊള്ളു എന്നുമാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഈസമയം അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ കൺസൾട്ടേഷൻ പ്രാക്ററീസ് എന്നുള്ള നാമധേയത്തിൽ ൫൦൦-൦ ൧൦൦൦-൦ രൂപാവീതം ജനങ്ങളോട്ട വാങ്ങുകയും ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻെറ സക്കീട്ടിനെ അതിലേക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ അമ്പരന്നുപോകാതെ തരമില്ല. മരിക്കാനായി ശ്വാസം വലിച്ചു കിടക്കുന്ന രോഗിയെ കാണുകയും ആ രോഗിക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരുതുള്ളി മരുന്നുപോലും കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെയും വരുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിൽ കൺസൾട്ടേഷൻ പ്രാക്ററീസ് എന്നുള്ള നാമധേയത്തോടുകൂടി ഭീമാകൃതിയിലുള്ള തുകകൾ ജനങ്ങളോട്ട വാങ്ങുന്നത് ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിന് ഒരിക്കലും അലംകാരമായി തീരുന്നതല്ല. ഇത്തരം കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി നടത്തിവരുന്ന ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻെറ സക്കീട്ടുകൾക്ക് ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഒരിക്കലും പണം അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുപ്പാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സക്കീട്ടുകളേയും പരിശോധനകളേയുംപററി ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു :

"After all, hospitals are meant primarily and mainly for relieving the suffering and curing the sick; and my inspection is with a view to know the quality of work and to determine whether medical subordinates are doing their professional work properly, for checking which I have devised ways and means."

അദ്ദേഹം പ്രസംഗിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ തത്വത്തെ എല്ലാജനങ്ങളും ഹാർദ്ദമായി ബഹുമാനിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പ്രസംഗിച്ചതായ ഈ തത്വം അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സക്കീട്ടുകൾകൊണ്ട് പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു മാത്രമെ ജനങ്ങൾ വാദിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ഓരോദിവസവും ചെല്ലുംതോറും പ

ലെആശുപത്രികളിലും ഈ തത്വത്തിനു വിപരീതമായിട്ടാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്നതു്. ചില ആശുപത്രികളിൽ നല്ലമരുന്നു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ പണംകൊടുക്കാതെ സാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ സർക്കീട്ടുകൾകൊണ്ടു എന്തു പ്രയോജനമാണുള്ളതെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ആശുപത്രികളിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന രോഗികളിൽ പണംകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളവരെ താല്പര്യമായി നോക്കുകയും സാധുക്കളെ നോക്കാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ ആശുപത്രിയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതാണ്. രോഗികളായി വരുന്ന സാധുക്കളെ വേണ്ടപോലെ നോക്കി രോഗത്തിനു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള മരുന്നുകൾ കൊടുത്തു കഴിയും വേഗത്തിൽ അവരെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തി അയയ്ക്കാത്തപക്ഷം അവരുടെ എത്രയോ കുടുംബങ്ങൾ പട്ടിണിയായി പോകുമെന്നുള്ളതു പല മെഡിക്കൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും മറന്നുകളകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ദിവസേന വേലചെയ്തു് വൈകുന്നേരം പണം കൊണ്ടുവന്നു് കൊടുക്കുന്ന ആൾ രോഗിയായി ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കിടന്നുപോയാൽ ആ കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായിത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. വേണ്ടപോലെ അന്വേഷിക്കാതേയും, നല്ല മരുന്നുകൾ കൊടുക്കാതേയും ആശുപത്രിയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന സാധുക്കൾക്ക് അവിടെനിന്നും കൊടുക്കുന്നകഞ്ഞിയിൽ ഒരു് ഓഹരി സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവച്ചിട്ട്, അവന്റെ സ്ഥിതികളെ അറിയാൻ അന്വേഷിച്ചുവരുന്ന കുട്ടികൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നത് എനിക്കു കാണ്മാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ കാര്യം ഹൃദയമുള്ളവർക്കു കണ്ടുസഹിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. സാധുക്കളെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്നതായ രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ സർക്കീട്ടിനാലുള്ള പ്രയോജനം എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല.

ഒരു ഡിസ്ത്രിക്ട് ആശുപത്രിയിൽ ഒരാളെ ഹൈഡ്രോസീൽ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയനടത്തി ഇട്ടിരുന്നു. ആ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ നടത്തി രണ്ടു ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അയാളുടെ കൈയിൽ പണമുണ്ടെന്നു് ആരോ മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസരെ പറഞ്ഞു മനസ്സിലാക്കി. അതിൽപിന്നീട് അഴിച്ചുകെട്ടുകയോ മരുന്നുകൾ വയ്ക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യാതെ മുഴുവൻ പഴുത്ത് രോഗി അപകടസ്ഥിതിയിലായി. ആ രോഗി മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസരോട് സങ്കടം പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ അയാൾ മരിക്കണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിച്ച് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണെന്നും, പണം തന്നല്ലാതെ ഭേദമാക്കുകയില്ലെന്നും ശഠിക്കയാൽ അയാളുടെ ഭാര്യയുടെ ആഭരണങ്ങൾ പണയം വച്ച് മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസർക്കു പണം കൊടുത്തതിൽ പിന്നീടാണ് രോഗിയെ വേണ്ടപോലെ ചികിത്സിച്ച് ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളത്. ചില മെഡിക്കൽ ആഫീസറന്മാർ ഇങ്ങനെ

[Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.]

ആയിത്തീരുന്നതിനുള്ള കാരണം, അതിലേയ്ക്കു് അവരെ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാരണം, ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻെറ സർക്കീട്ടുകളിൽ അത്തരം കാര്യങ്ങളെ അന്വേഷിച്ച് പരിഹരിക്കാതിരിക്കാനുള്ള കാരണം, ഇവയെപ്പററി നിഷ്പക്ഷമായ അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തി ആശുപത്രികളുടെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തെ പരിപാലിക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Sir, I am afraid I cannot begin at once answering all the allegations and charges categorically. Before I proceed to do so, I must clear my ground in order to make the member understand what we are talking about. Just before this, we spoke about development and yesterday with regard to agriculture, we spoke about evolution which word I heard mentioned about twenty-four times. From this I infer that the Members of this house understand the true significance of the terms, development and evolution, the latter of which we owe to the genius of Darwin for its introduction into biological science. And since then it has become applicable to other phases and departments of life. All human institutions, social, religious and political, have had some great underlying principles. In course of time, these principles became submerged and got lost sight of by the growth of accretions until some great man after a lapse of perhaps centuries arose and gave a proper setting to these original principles, otherwise the accretions became crystallised into traditions and customs and meaningless forms. This has been the case in all departments of life. Hospitals and similar institutions were originally established with the noblest of motives to cure diseases and relieve suffering. I want prominently to bring to the attention of the members of this House that there is such a thing as evolution in all departments of life; and taking, for example, the figure which Mr. Hodgson drew from military organisation, we know that there were days when kings and princes took the lead in wars and the agility and prowess of the kings in the use of arms decided the issue of battles. After the invention of gunpowder and after the development of arms and ammunition, the king does not lead the army. The general is behind, miles off in a tent or dug-out, with his hands manipulating the wireless telephone and telegraph issuing orders by these means to those actually engaged in the scene of action.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is all this relevant, Sir?

PRESIDENT: Absolutely relevant, I would say.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Later on, suffocating gases and blistering fluids have added other factors to be contended against.

In regard to the Medical Department--hospitals and similar institutions—we shall see what they were then and what they are now. Hospitals were first infirmaries, institutions into which were admitted the sick

and the feeble, the old and the decrepit. Later on, we find special institutions for the relief of the sick and the suffering. Later still, they specialised still more and hospitals for women and maternity hospitals came to be established.

With regard to the hospitals, how they were manned about thirty years ago and how they are manned now, is a question that has to be considered. Thirty years ago every medical subordinate was a locally trained man. Now we have a better class of trained men, men who are trained in universities and who have had better general education ; and whatever might have been the practice years gone by, at present, we have a staff of men, of whom we have no suspicion to begin with, of whom we do not presume at the outset that they are dishonest. We naturally presume that, being well-qualified men, they are honest.

When I begin to check the medicines and drugs I do not go from A to Z one after another to weigh, measure and check every article that has been supplied. I examine at random. I examine here and there some of the most important and costly drugs. Because the officers I deal with in my department are mostly University men and I presume that they are honest until the contrary is proved.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many hours does he take for the inspection of each institution?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I will come to that. Communications and conveyances are entirely different from what they were 20 to 30 years ago. Formerly, we had to travel in boats and it would take two days or 36 hours in the least, to go from Trivandrum to Quilon. It would take nearly a week to go to Parur. Whenever the Darbar Physician moved, he was forced to have two camps, one for his servants and luggage and another for himself. The servants had to go in advance in order to prepare food and other things for the Darbar Physician. The roads and communications have considerably improved; and while it took three days to reach Kottayam, now it takes less than six hours.

The Darbar Physician is, further, not merely an inspecting officer. He does much more than that. He is a directing officer as well.

Further there was no such thing as nursing in those days. I know when nursing was introduced. I may humbly claim my own share towards the introduction of nurses into Travancore as part of the medical staff. In 1904 or 1905, I spoke to Mr. Madhava Rao the then Dewan and to the Darbar Physician and the Bishop of Quilon about the introduction of nurses in our hospitals and in 1905 nurses were employed for the first time both in the Quilon Hospital and Trivandrum. Since the time of Florence Nightingale, that profession has been sanctified, and no hospital without a well-organised nursing staff is worth the name, for in the treatment of the sick and suffering nursing plays at least fifty per cent. towards cure and restoration to health. Further, the Darbar Physician has not merely to check, weigh and

[Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.]

see whether the drugs are in order in various hospitals. How many of you can tell me that the medical officers presiding in the out-patients' room and writing prescriptions are actually doing their work without cheating? A medical officer--as soon as he sees the patient—if it is a case of fever, may be seen at once to prescribe diaphoretic mixture; if one of dysentery, creta mixture. He does not examine properly and still people might be satisfied. I ask now, how all this is to be checked? Have you tried to find what the Darbar Physician has done for that. I have instituted a system which is not in vogue even in most other parts of India and that is a system by which the work can be checked, not merely checked, but considerably improved. The medical officer, in the larger institutions at least, has to note down the important signs and symptoms that he finds in the patient and then prescribe. There are various advantages in this system. First of all, when the inspecting officer comes and checks he might find whether the diagnosis is sufficiently warranted by the symptoms. Secondly, supposing the out-patient medical officer is suddenly transferred and another man takes charge instead, by merely looking at the ticket he could understand the real state of health of the patient. He should have some data. These he can get according to the present system. Thirdly, every man who succeeds will be a check on the work of his predecessor. Fourthly, this system does something greater also. The out-patient usually walks into the out-patient room and sits there for a couple of minutes. He has to be examined, and a prescription has to be made. All this has to be done as quickly as possible. I have arranged that only men of experience must sit at the out-patients' room. He must prescribe for them. He must always have his wits about him. He must be able to diagnose with the quickness of lightning.

It was then alleged that in-patients are not being properly attended to. Sir, there are the ward medical men and the nurses to look after them. There are the warders also. That is not the case with the out-patients. The out-patient walks in and walks out in a few minutes. I may draw the attention of the House to a circular that I have issued on this subject. What is of interest to the scientists in the rest of the world is the out-patient department. The greatest work of the highest scientific value can be done in the out-patient department.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will Dr. Lakshmanan tell us what the system adopted in the out-patient department of the General Hospital is?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I mentioned that this system has been introduced in the larger hospitals. So far as I know, this system is in vogue in the General Hospital.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there not any chance of making false entries also?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Quite so. I must tell you that it is due to a misunderstanding of the

exact nature of the work of the Darbar Physician that these charges have been brought forward. Therefore I had to clear the ground with these general observations.

The tendency of modern treatment is not to *cure* alone but to *prevent* as well. In the out-patient department, the medical officer has to find out what the beginnings of diseases are which is of the highest scientific and practical value. With regard to what has been done in the out-patient department, it is that which I call the direction by the Darbar Physician.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether a medical officer who is in charge of the out-patient department can attend to 200 or 300 patients daily without the help of another man.

PRESIDENT: How does it arise?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The system in the General Hospital is that one medical officer has to prescribe for 200 or 300 persons without any help. I ask, is it possible for one man to examine and diagnose about 200 or 300 persons attending in the morning?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): It is possible for a single man to prescribe even for 500 persons in a day, if necessary. My instruction is that only new patients are to be examined every day by the senior medical officer in charge of the out-patient department. The same patient is seen by the senior officer only once a week. On the other days, the assistants look after him as he has only to repeat the medicines.

MR. M. N. PILLAI ((*Trivandrum*): May I ask how many minutes he will take to examine, diagnose, and prescribe for a single patient if he does his work carefully?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): It may take half a minute. It may even take half a year. As soon as he sees the patient, he will be able to find out the disease in some cases.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know—

PRESIDENT: We cannot carry on arguments here.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): No argument, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of the House—

PRESIDENT: You can not do so now. You can do it in your speech.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): The ideal in regard to hospital administration work is efficiency—how far patients obtain relief. It is towards that end that my work has been concentrated. If my work is to be judged by the number of days I am absent from Trivandrum or from the number of miles I have travelled, I am afraid, I must plead guilty.

As regards the amount spent on account of travelling allowance, I am afraid the figures quoted by Mr. Kumara Pillai and those of myself

[President.]

do not tally. In 1093, the Darbar Physician had Rs. 1,800 and he spent Rs. 2,497. The establishment had Rs. 400 and they spent Rs. 791-14-0. I am not in possession of the figures to go on with.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I bring to the notice of the President that we are trenching upon the usual time for tiffin?

PRESIDENT: I think we may rise at 2-30 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is already half past two. If Dr. Lakshmanan would halt at a particular point, we may resume after lunch.

PRESIDENT: The House will now adjourn to meet again at 3-15 P. M.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-30 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-10 P. M.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): At the end of my speech, I endeavoured to show that mere touring does not constitute the full duties of the Darbar Physician. His chief duty is direction. Direction cannot be explained, except by illustration, to a lay audience. For example, I have gone through thousands of operations in the annual returns; and from them I analysed and tabulated over 400 cases of which more than 80 per cent. were unwarranted and unjustifiable. This is not the place for me to make a disclosure of the skill or ability of the officers of my department or the usefulness of the work done by me. For example, in the case of women in labour our men are not quite up to the mark, but the training that they have had—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know from Dr. Lakshmanan—

PRESIDENT: Will you please allow him to finish that sentence?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): The training that they have had in practical midwifery has not been sufficient in its practical side because they have not been given sufficient scope in a lying-in hospital in the state.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether there were any cases of ordinary labour in which the medical men were found incapable of giving relief to the patient, and if so, what steps were taken by the Darbar Physician in such cases.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Ordinary cases of labour do not require medical men. An ordinary midwife will do.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What I said was, in difficult cases of labour—

PRESIDENT: You did not say so.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I meant that. In difficult labour cases, when a medical man was taken and when it was not possible for him to give relief to the patient, what action has the Darbar Physician taken, if the case had been reported to him?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I have had no reports about that. But I have had opportunities of correcting even specialists.

Further, the Darbar Physician's duties do not end there. In my surprise visits, I have had opportunities to correct medical men. In one case I stepped into an operation room when an operation was being conducted. The abdomen was opened. An important organ was being tied to the abdominal wall and the organ was literally strangled. It is a well-known phenomenon that, when a finger is tied, circulation is stopped and the finger literally dies. As soon as I saw that, I asked him what was the case and why he should conduct that operation when there were simpler ones. I asked him whether he had examined local conditions. He blinked and looked at the nurse and the nurse looked at him. By the time the operation was finished, the organ was strangled; and the patient left the hospital some days later. I do not know how long the patient continued to live. Anyhow the patient left the hospital unsexed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to ask another question, if you would allow me.

PRESIDENT: You have a right to put questions. The only thing is that I must in fairness give sufficient time to Dr. Lakshmanan to reply to all the charges against him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): He has already exceeded the time.

PRESIDENT: The charges alleged are very serious and they require full explanation.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): A charge levelled against me is, Sir, that I do not take with me my establishment and peons for weighing and measuring drugs. That is because I do not depend on them. They are laymen. Even if a bottle full of coloured water is given them, they may measure it and be satisfied. I cannot trust them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are not the medicine-bottles labelled?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): What has the label got to do with the quality of the medicine? The contents might be coloured water. (*Laughter.*)

The point is, I am not in a position to trust even my clerks until they prove trustworthy. I begin to trust them only after two or three years' experience with them. Most of these subordinates are not often honest. Even the duffadar might go and squat on the medical officers and demand articles for his own personal use. So, I do not take my establishment with me when I go and check the various hospitals.

[Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.]

The next point is about my fees. I am sorry, Sir, that that subject has been brought up here in an assembly where there are many professional gentlemen of eminence. I need hardly say that, as regards consultation, each man should be allowed to demand his own rate. This is a country where there are many doctors. It is only when I am called for that I offer my services. In a medical conference held under the presidency of Mr. Madhava Row, two senior members of my fraternity were present besides the Darbar Physician and myself and the seniormost, if I may be permitted to use that word, the seniormost member pleaded for the regulation of fees for Surgeons because he said "Dr. Lakshmanan's charges are very high but I get only Rs. 5". Mr. Madhava Row said "people who care for superior medical aid must be prepared to pay such fees for such aid".

I am surprised, Sir, that gentlemen like Mr. Kumara Pillai should depend upon hearsay to make statements in this House which are not true. As to another paying for my travelling expenses and my claiming T. A. from Government, I have already told the House that this is not true.

It is said that medical men—I do not know whether I understood Mr. Kumara Pillai aright—who came to me for professional consultation have been benefited by the consultation. If that statement is made in a sinister way I would challenge that statement, if it can be proved whether any single medical man who consulted me was any the better for it in the Department.

Another charge levelled against me is that the medicines supplied to the hospitals are not good. Sir, the term 'good' is a relative term. What I call good, another might call bad.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I have not said anything about that.

I spoke only about people being forced to pay when they go to hospitals for treatment.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): As regards the fact that only people who can afford to pay can get medicine in hospitals, that is only a personal factor which depends upon individual medical men. It is impossible for the Darbar Physician to know whether all the medical officers are honest or not. If any case is brought to the notice of the Darbar Physician, certainly he will take immediate action against such people. It was also said that some medical officers do not look after those who do not pay. These facts have not come to my notice. If such cases were reported to me, such medical men would have paid the penalty for it. It must be conceded that in a large department where such a large number of people are engaged, certainly there will be some who are dishonest. We are sure to find black sheep in every flock.

Another charge against me was that I have been rushing through inspections at the end of the year. It is not with any deliberate purpose

that I rush through my inspections at the end of any year. As far as possible, consistent with the other duties that I have to discharge, I am conducting various inspections. There is no definite time allotted to me for inspection work. That I remedy by making surprise visits. Nobody knows which hospital I am going to visit and at what time. I do not think I will be justified in staying away outside leaving more important duties at the Capital. It must be remembered that I am also physician to the Darbar and that I may be called upon at any moment. I think, I have answered all the points.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In supporting the motion, I have to speak a few words. We have heard with very great interest the speech made by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai on this motion. He has explained in plain words with convincing facts and figures the nature of the Darbar Physician's inspections of the medical institutions and the supervision he exercises over the work of his subordinates. This House should thank the member for exposing the hollowness of his inspection work. His explanation is not at all satisfactory. What does this show? The T. A. and the remunertion from private practice seem to have been kept in view. There is no adequate return, in the shape of efficient and sympathetic administration of medical relief, for seventeen or eighteen thousand rupees which every year the taxpayer is called upon to provide for his pay and allowances.

Sir, last year, I brought to the notice of this Council the careless way in which the Darbar Physician was inspecting the medical institutions under his charge and his apparent unwillingness to move about the country for inspection work, the frequent transfers of a few of his subordinates and several other departmental irregularities.

My friend Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai, said, in this Council last year, when I moved, for a reduction in the allotment of the Medical Department, that I am a simple credulous man and the House need not take the matter seriously and that it was unseemly to discredit the Darbar Physician's statements. Now our veteran member, Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, has given you a lucid description of the Darbar Physician's inspection of the medical institutions. I hope no one would dare to controvert the statements now, coming as it does from Mr. T. Kumara Pillai who is reputed to be a man of facts and figures. I hope the Darbar Physician will move about more freely in future for inspection work throughout the State. With these words, I support the motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I wish to speak a few words in this connection. I have just listened to the remarks made by my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai and Dr. M. N. Pillai, especially with regard to the inspection work of the Darbar Physician. Of course, my experience is rather very limited. But with that little experience, I beg to take a different view about the results of the inspections. Perhaps some of my friends here may know that I live almost next door to the Kottayam District Hospital; and for the information of the House, I may say that some of the surprise inspections

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

made by the Darbar Physician had a very wholesome check on the subordinates at Kottayam.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know from Mr. Nidiry how many times the Kottayam Hospital was inspected during the year 1098.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I think twice or thrice. I am not quite sure.

DR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*); May I ask how many hours the Darbar Physician might have taken for each inspection ?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise here.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): He took about one day for each inspection.

On enquiry, I was told that one day the Darbar Physician suddenly appeared in the hospital at 6-30 in the morning. In fact very few people were present, so much so that it was only at about seven that even the peons and attendants came there and it was only at about eight that the medical Officers came there. By that time, the patients who came there were attended to and prescriptions were given by the Darbar Physician himself. The medical officers had to stand by, rather ashamed of what was going on in the hospital. The Darbar Physician continued to prescribe till 10 o'clock and then turned that side and had a mere look on the medical officers which, I am sure must have had a wonderful effect on the officers concerned. My impression is that these suprise inspections produce very good results.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does Mr. Nidiry want us to understand that prescribing for a few patients who came to the hospital between six and ten one morning amounts to an inspection of the hospital ?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter for inference.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): These surprise visits have a very wholesome effect on the subordinate officers; because, if he had given previous information that he was going to inspect, they would all be ready to meet him in time and he will not be able to find the real state of affairs. So far as Kottayam is concerned, the surprise visit had good effect, and I was very glad to note that medical officers used to attend the hospital more precisely, and also did their work with greater care and attention. By such examples, Dr. Lakshmanan was able to produce such wholesome effect on the subordinates.

As regards the number of visits of the Darbar Physician, I also would wish, as some of my friends have already stated, that the Darbar Physician visits the various places in the State oftener. But considering his ability and his busy practice and also his duties at the Capital, we

cannot expect him to find time for continuous and long inspection work though it would have been a *desideratum*.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): In rising to oppose the motion, I wish to confine myself to one aspect of the question that was raised by Mr. Kumara Pillai; *i. e.*, as regards the very heavy fees that Dr. Lakshmanan levies as professional fees. I am not competent to enter into the merits of the controversy that my friend Mr. M. N. Pillai has raised with reference to the satisfactory nature of the inspections done by Dr. Lakshmanan. He is perfectly competent to vindicate his position, and I have no doubt that he has done it to the satisfaction of the House.

In the matter of charging professional fees, ordinarily the status of a particular member in his profession, the time at his disposal, the number of parties that come up for his professional help, these are the factors that determine the amount of fees that one charges for professional help, whether he is a lawyer or a medical man. It always struck me that, whatever the layman might think of it, the members of the profession generally view with approbation seniors charging heavy fees, as otherwise the juniors have no chance of getting any fees. Taking the case of Alleppey, my own station, I may say that they view with great appreciation the fact that I am claiming very heavy fees, even prohibitive fees. From the fact that a man is charging heavy fees, we would not be justified in saying that he is transgressing limits. No limit is laid down to the demand of a professional expert in the matter of remuneration. It is a matter entirely between him and his clients. If a Government officer devotes a good deal of his time for putting money into his own pocket sacrificing his legitimate duties, I can understand the reasonableness of the complaint. So far as the traditions of the Medical Department are concerned, any medical officer, whether Darbar Physician or a subordinate, is perfectly competent to receive any amount as fees for the professional help that he renders. The demand made by a professional man ought not to be taken as an offence, even if it be in the case of the Darbar Physician. With these remarks, I oppose the motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I quite see the view-point of the Deputy President, but the analogy is not quite correct. He is charging higher fees than another vakil in order to give a chance to the junior vakils. It is not quite the same as the Darbar Physician charging high fees. What I want to point out is that it is not the proper thing for the Darbar Physician to carry on private practice. I have always said that, and I say so once again, Dr. Lakshmanan is an asset to our State. We are proud to have such an eminent physician and doctor in our country. That is another question.

I have some personal experience about the hospitals here. I had one of my sons treated in the General Hospital a couple of years ago. We had continually to buy medicines, but I am glad to hear that matters are now improving.

[Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.]

With regard to the X-ray, the X-ray attached to the General Hospital here—

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here. This motion relates to the T. A. of the Darbar Physician.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With regard to the T. A., I am not satisfied with the explanation given by Dr. Lakshmanan. If Dr. Lakshmanan goes from, say, Trivandrum to Nagercoil, he does not, it would appear, inspect the intermediate hospitals. I am not quite convinced that he is not able to go out on circuit often, on account of his work at the Capital. These are days of easy and quick travelling; and if his services are wanted here, a telegram might be sent to him and he can at once come back in his motor car. I am not at all satisfied with his explanation.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Supposing a telegram is sent to the Darbar Physician, is he expected to spend his time on the way back by visiting various hospitals? (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Dr. Lakshmanan just told us that when he goes to the mofussil towns to visit patients, he does not charge travelling allowance. My point is that T. A. which goes from the Government exchequer should be properly spent. Rushing up to one place and returning on the same day is not the proper thing to do. He must do justice to his work by inspecting the hospitals carefully and see whether the patients are being looked after and so on. When I asked Dr. Lakshmanan the question whether medicine bottles were labelled, he said that they were, but that the contents might be coloured water. He just said that the medical officers in charge of hospitals were mostly highly qualified men and men who could be trusted. If Dr. Lakshmanan can trust them with regard to the quantity of the medicine, I do not see why he could not trust them with regard to the quality of the medicine also.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Mr. Hoogewerf asked why the clerks taken to camp could not be used for checking and weighing the medicines. The clerks cannot distinguish between medicines and coloured water.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I oppose the motion and in so doing I should like to make the following observations.

Sir, I was extremely glad to hear from the motion of my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai that the Darbar Physician used to attend several hospitals during the day and return to the Capital on the same day. While Mr. Kumara Pillai condemned the Darbar Physician, I congratulate him for returning to the Capital on the same day, for the Darbar Physician has more onerous work to be performed with respect to the person of His Highness the Maha Raja—for His Highness, especially in his venerable old age, may call upon the Darbar Physician for service

at any time; and for the Darbar Physician to be away from the headquarters for a considerable time is not a desirable state of affairs. He is a Darbar Physician and as such we are bound to allow the Darbar Physician to attend upon His Highness the Maha Raja as often as possible, and if the House insists upon the Darbar Physician to do more of touring work, we have to provide a separate doctor as the head of the Medical Department and not to blame the doctor for being in the headquarters to attend the call of His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will Mr. Karayalar tell me whether there is not a surgeon newly appointed to attend on His Highness the Maha Raja?

PRESIDENT: I would deprecate all discussion in regard to His Highness.

REV: FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, with regard to the remarks made by Mr. Kumara Pillai, I would only say about the inspection work of the Darbar Physician of the northern hospitals, *viz.*, those at Alwaye, Perumpavur and Todupuzha. It is true his visits are very rare, but they are very effective, especially the visits made to Alwaye hospital of which I have personal knowledge. As far as I know, they are very thorough and he even got information from patients and from people generally. So he has been making a thorough enquiry and the inspection has been satisfactory.

As regards the fee which he demands, I would support what Mr. Krishna Aiyangar said, that as long as he does not thrust his services and as long as he is allowed private practice, he can dictate his own terms. As regards the preferential treatment accorded to patients in the hospitals, I must echo what my friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai, has said. At least some of the medical officers, I know, generally do that. It is only when they are properly paid that the patients get proper medicines.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir' our hospitals are good. But we want to make them better. The medical department is efficient. But I would like that it becomes still more efficient; and I think it is with that object that Mr. Kumara Pillai has brought forward his motion. It is not for me, Sir, to enter into the merits of the accusation and defence. This House has been in possession of several facts and figures so as to enable us to come to a conclusion. About some of these matters, I wish to say a few words. If the Darbar Physician should not take up private practice and if this Council and the Government decide that it is not proper for him to do so, there must be some orders passed to that effect. In the same manner, if inspection should not be of the nature now done by the Darbar Physician, there must be proper rules on that subject also. I am referring to this because, if there are no such orders, and if we, the representatives of the people offer Government certain suggestions, and if the heads of departments answer us in a general manner, there is no good gained at all. If, on the other hand, there is some common agreement and if the Government pass an order as to how particular things ought to be done

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

by heads of departments, I think a large amount of passion kindled in the discussion may be avoided. I am sorry that, in dealing with the question, the officers have to defend their department and themselves too, when they are personally attacked. As I pointed out yesterday, it is very difficult for us to arrive at a dispassionate judgment about such matters under such conditions. Therefore, I would impress upon the Council the necessity of laying down rules, whether they relate to the inspection or T. A. or any other matter, and also to see that these rules are not departed from. I am one of those who think that there is room for improvement in the Medical Department here as in all other countries. I think we are not having as good a number of hospitals as we should have. For example, if you take the General Hospital—

PRESIDENT: It does not arise here.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): This is a general motion and so

PRESIDENT: No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In that case by increasing the number of hospitals and making the staff more efficient, the complaints made could be avoided. I should say once more that there must be some good rule passed after deliberation, which should not be departed from. I know instances in which the Darbar Physician acted with great promptitude. I must tell the Council that I had occasion to bring a certain case of misbehaviour on the part of a medical officer to the notice of the Darbar Physician. Several people from a certain taluk in the neighbourhood of Trivandrum came to me and represented to me that their medical officer was doing such a lot of mischief and that there were registered petitions and lawyers' notices against him. I went to the Darbar Physician and told him that an enquiry should be made. I must say, Sir, that the Darbar Physician proceeded to Nedumangad the very next day and the officer was transferred. This is not the sole instance. There are instances in which the subordinates and staff are doing everything possible in their power to make as much money as possible by illicit means. A proper enquiry certainly has to be made; and if the Darbar Physician moves about more frequently, such cases will become fewer. For that reason, I should insist that the Darbar Physician should make it possible for him to pay more frequent visits to the several hospitals and dispensaries.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I think I may say a word or two with respect to the side-shot against me. I have been provoked to make a few observations in connexion with this question by the reference made by Dr. M. N. Pillai to what I said on a prior occasion. I recollect distinctly, when a few charges were made against the Darbar Physician last year, I was patiently listening to the members who spoke upon the subject, and after listening to the categorical refutation by Dr. Lakshmanan, I had only one course left to me, *i. e.* to grant Dr. M. N. Pillai's honesty and sincerity in making the motion both

of which there was no reason to doubt. I did, at the same time, come to the conclusion that he must have been led into making those statements by some persons who might have been interested in urging those charges. It was therefore that I said, on that prior occasion, in view of the denial by Dr. Lakshmanan who even now stands undiscomfited, that Dr. M. N. Pillai must have been a credulous man. I gave him credit for perfect honesty and sincerity. Now, this time also, I find certain allegations have been made against the Darbar Physician by my esteemed friend, Mr. Kumara Pillai, who, however, says that he makes the charges on hearsay evidence as well. The position in respect of the charges that have been levelled against the Darbar Physician has not been rendered any whit the better. If any how, my friend Dr. M. N. Pillay objects to my inference that he is credulous, I would readily revise what I said.

Then with respect to other observations, *i. e.*, the complaint as to the inspection work done by the Darbar Physician and the question of his remuneration, we have to take into consideration the antecedents of the department. If Messrs. Kumara Pillai and M. N. Pillai are of opinion that they have compared the figures and the sort of inspection work that used to be done by the predecessor of Dr. Lakshmanan, I mean Dr. Perkins, and if they have a sufficient basis to level the charge against Dr. Lakshmanan, I think we might listen gladly to that. But, if they make out nothing of that sort, on what particular basis this charge is based remains to be seen.

Well, with respect to the other question, the question of professional remuneration, it is an extremely delicate point for me also to advert to. But, I would just observe on this branch of the question, that the analogy drawn by the Deputy President as a legal practitioner, though sure to meet with welcome from the junior section of the bar, is not suited to the case in hand. I fear it does not apply to the case of the Darbar Physician who happens to be the head of a department brought into existence for the alleviation of the suffering of the poor and the impecunious. And so even at the risk of being misunderstood, I would request Dr. Lakshmanan to consider his position as the head of the department and in that view to revise his remuneration. The efficiency of Dr. Lakshmanan has clearly come out in the discussion; for the accusation clearly implies that his services are much in demand and I think Mr. Kumara Pillai's complaint seems to be this that his charges are heavy, consistent with the duty of the Darbar Physician, as head of the Medical Department. He should attend to cases as far as possible even without remuneration. Such a reform I shall be very glad to welcome. But, if it is a case of his personal convenience being invaded and his bargaining for professional remuneration, then it is a matter within the realm of private contract between him and the person who demands his services. With these few observations, I resume my seat.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, in view of the very serious allegations made against one of the most responsible officers in the service of His Highness by two members of this Council—

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Louder, please.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I should be failing in my duty if I did not say a few words. There have been complaints against the high fee that Dr. Lakshmanan has been charging for his professional services. In this connexion, I should like to relate an incident which was narrated to me by the late Rao Bahadur R. Mahadeva Aiyar. He told me that he had all on a sudden developed some mysterious malady which nobody was able to diagnose. Dr. Lakshmanan was then called; he was also mystified at first but later on remembered that he had read about such a disease in some medical journal; and immediately he also remembered the particular method of treatment by the ready application of which cure was effected. But for that timely help of Dr. Lakshmanan, he told me that his life would then have ended. Herein lies the advantage of our having a genuine expert in the service. In 90 cases out of 100, the expert may not be more useful than an ordinary practitioner and people may be complaining that we are needlessly paying the high emoluments demanded by a person really proficient in his profession. But the few instances which an expert may be able to save valuable lives will (as was observed by Sir P. Rajagopalachari when the above incident was reported to him at the time) more than repay all money expended upon him. Dr. Lakshmanan is one of the most accomplished and experienced medical men that we have had during the past so many years. If the charges he levies are high, there is no legitimate ground for anybody to complain. I am perfectly at one with the Deputy President on this point.

I myself have no personal knowledge about the way in which the Durbar Physician carries on his circuit and inspection work. Very serious charges have been levelled against Dr Lakshmanan to-day. My limited knowledge of the inside working of the department inclines me to the view that, to a great extent, subordinates of the department who have been compelled to bestir themselves from lethargy have been at the bottom of the crusade against the Darbar Physician. Personal jealousy also may have its share. But it is nobody's case that Dr. Lakshmanan is not an exceptionally capable and competent officer. He may have his own defects; but, in my opinion, they are insignificant when placed side by side with his undoubted eminence. In any case, I emphatically dissociate myself from the charges levelled against Dr. Lakshmanan.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, I oppose the motion. I am not aware of the existence of any rule prohibiting Darbar Physicians from taking to private practice, so long as it is done without deteriment to their official duties. If such a rule is brought into force, I should consider it the greatest misfortune to the country. For there are cases in which his medical help would be invaluable in saving so many valuable lives. Nor can the Darbar Physician be accused for accepting his legitimate fees, however high the same may be.

I have myself had in two extremely urgent cases to indent upon the help of Dr. Thomson and Major Biddie who were Darbar Physicians and who also accepted fees. It is but right that we must pay well for the exceptionally good treatment that we aspire to get. As for the manner in which Dr. Lakshmanan responds to calls for help and the uniformly courteous and considerate treatment he accords to his patients, I have nothing but the highest words of praise for him.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure was duly put and carried.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the sitting would continue after five to-day?

PRESIDENT: The rule requires that the debate should be stopped and the demands put to the vote of the House immediately after five.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): സമയം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായുള്ള ചില സംഗതികളെപ്പററി മാത്രമെ ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറയാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുള്ളു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആരോഗ്യരക്ഷയ്ക്കായി ആറുലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം ഉറുപ്പിക ആണ്ടുതോറും ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നതിൽ സാധുക്കളായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രയോജനപ്പെട്ടു വരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാൎക്കും പണക്കാൎക്കും, മററു തൊഴിലുകാൎക്കും ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നത് വേലക്കാരാണ്. അവരുടെ നിരന്തരമായ ശ്രമങ്ങളില്ലാത്ത പക്ഷം മററുള്ളവരുടെ സ്ഥിതി പരിതാപകരമായിത്തീരുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവൎക്ക് മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കിട്ടിവരുന്ന തൃപ്തികരമല്ലാത്ത സഹായത്തെ പററി ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ടതും വാദിക്കേണ്ടതും എൻെറ പ്രധാനകടമയെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്. എൻെറ പ്രമേയത്തിനു ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സമാധാനത്തിൻെറ ആദ്യഭാഗം അതിലേക്ക് എങ്ങനെ സംബന്ധിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളത് എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ആ ഭാഗത്തിനു ഞാൻ മറുപടി പറയാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല.

മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ മുമ്പിലത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതികൾക്കും വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടെന്നു ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ പറകയുണ്ടായി. ൧൦൪൦ മുതൽ ഇതുവരെയുള്ള രാജ്യഭരണറിപ്പോൎട്ടുകൾ എത്രയോ പ്രാവശ്യം വായിക്കാൻ എനിക്ക് ഇടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാൎട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഓരോ കാലത്തും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള വൎദ്ധനയുടെ ഗതികളെ രാജ്യഭരണറിപ്പോൎട്ടുകളിൽ നിന്നും എനിക്കറിയാൻ

[Mr. T Kumara Pillai.]

സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ കരുണയോടുകൂടിയ സഹായങ്ങളും, പല ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്മാരുടെ ശ്രമങ്ങളും കൊണ്ടു മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിയിൽ എത്തീട്ടുള്ളതാണെന്ന് എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. മുൻ കാലങ്ങളിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്മാരുടെ സക്കീട്ടുകൾ ഇന്നവിധം നടത്തണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ സക്കീട്ടായി തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നും തെക്കോട്ടു പുറപ്പെട്ടാൽ കന്യാകുമാരി വരെയൊ ആരുവാമൊഴി വരെയൊ ഉള്ള ആശുപത്രികൾ പരിശോധിച്ചു മടങ്ങണമെന്നുള്ള നിബന്ധനയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതായി ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ പല വഴികളിലായി സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടനിലക്കു യാതൊരുകേടുംവരാതെ സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടത് എല്ലാവരുടേയും കടമയെന്നാണു ഞാൻ കരുതുന്നത്.

തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നും കോട്ടയത്ത് എത്തുന്നതിന് ആറു മണിക്കൂർ മതിയാകുമെന്നും, അതിനാൽ മുൻകാലങ്ങളിലെപ്പോലെ ഓരോസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും താമസിച്ച് യാത്രചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുമാണ് ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ പറയുന്നത്. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നും കോട്ടയത്തേക്ക് വല്ല കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കും പോകുന്നപക്ഷം വഴിയിൽ താമസിക്കാതെ ആറു മണിക്കൂർകൊണ്ട് എത്താവുന്നതുതന്നെ എന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാം. തിരുവനന്തപുരം മുതൽ കോട്ടയംവരെ വഴിയിൽ അനേകം ആശുപത്രികൾ ഉള്ളപ്പോൾ അവയെ പരിശോധിക്കാതെ നേരെ കോട്ടയത്ത് എത്താനുള്ള ലഘുവായ സമയസൌകര്യത്തെ പററി പര്യാലോചിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. മുന്നറിവു കൊടുക്കാതെ ഓരോ ആശുപത്രികളിൽ പോകുന്നതിൽ പല ഗുണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടെന്നു, ഒരാശുപത്രിയിൽ മുന്നറിവുകൊടുക്കാതെ പോയതിൽ അവിടെയൊരു ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ നടക്കയായിരുന്നു എന്നും, ആ സമയം ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ അവിടെ എത്താത്തപക്ഷം ശസ്ത്രക്രിയയുടെ ദോഷത്താൽ രോഗിക്ക് അപകടംവരുമായിരുന്നു എന്നും, അതിനെ തടുക്കാൻ ഇടയായി എന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനെ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തി മറെറാരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തം കൂടി ഇവിടെ പറയേണ്ടതായുണ്ട്. പ്രസിദ്ധന്മാരായ രണ്ടു സജ്ജന്മാർ ഒരു സ്ത്രീയുടെ സുഖക്കേടിനെപ്പററി ഉണ്ടായ വാദപ്രതിവാദത്തിൽ ഒരാൾ ട്യൂമറാണെന്നും മറെറ ആൾ ഗർഭമാണെന്നും ഉള്ള തർക്കത്തിൽ അതിൽ അധികാരശക്തിയുള്ള ആളിൻെറ നിബന്ധമായ വാദത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാന

മാക്കിത്തീരാറാണെന്നുള്ള സങ്കല്പത്തോടുകൂടി ആ സ്ത്രീയുടെ വയറു കീറിനോക്കിയപ്പോൾ കുട്ടിയെ കാണുകയും അതോടുകൂടി ശസ്ത്രക്രിയ ആയുധത്തെ താഴത്ത് വച്ചിട്ട് ഉടനെതന്നെ ആ വിദഗ്ധൻ ആശുപത്രിവിട്ടു പോയിട്ടുള്ളതായും എനിക്കറിവുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഹാളിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്ന പലർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ വരാമെങ്കിൽ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയകളിൽ ചില്ലറയായ അബദ്ധങ്ങൾ വന്നുപോകുന്നതു സംഭാവ്യമാണെന്നു കരുതി സമാധാനപ്പെടാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അബദ്ധങ്ങളെ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ ആറു മണിക്കൂർകൊണ്ടു കോട്ടയത്ത് എത്തുന്ന മാതിരിയുള്ള സർക്കീട്ടുകൾകൊണ്ട് പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. മുന്നറിവു കൊടുക്കാതെയുള്ള സർക്കീട്ടുകളാൽ വല്ല ഗുണങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ അതൊരു സമാധാനമായി കരുതാവുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെയുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതായി ജനങ്ങളുടെ അറിവിലോ അനുഭവത്തിലോ എത്തീട്ടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ആശുപത്രികളിലുള്ള മരുന്നുകളെ തൂക്കിനോക്കുന്നതിലോ, രജിസ്റ്ററുകളെ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിലോ അല്ല, ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലാണ്, ദർബാർഫിസിഷൻ വേലചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നും, അതിലേയ്ക്കും അദ്ദേഹം വേലചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും പറയുന്നു. ആശുപത്രികളിൽ രോഗികളെ കണ്ടു ഉടനെ "Prescription" എഴുതിക്കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തെ ഒരു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. രോഗികളെ പരിശോധിക്കാതെയും അവരോടു കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചറിയാതെയും Prescription എഴുതിക്കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം ഓരോദിവസവും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിൽ സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതും ഏററവും പ്രധാനമായി ഗണിച്ചുവരുന്നതുമായ ജനറൽ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ എങ്ങനെ നടന്നുവരുന്നു എന്നും, അവിടെ എങ്ങനെ "prescription" എഴുതിക്കൊടുത്ത് വരുന്നു എന്നും അവിടെ ആരാണ "prescription" എഴുതിക്കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതെന്നും അറിയുമ്പോൾ ജനറൽ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന കാര്യക്ഷമതയുടെ പരിമാണം ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. ചികിത്സയ്ക്കായും, ശസ്ത്രക്രിയയ്ക്കായും ജനറൽആശുപത്രിയെ അഭയം പ്രാപിക്കാനായി വരുന്ന എത്രയോ രോഗികൾ നിരാശയോടുകൂടി ദൂരസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുള്ള മിഷൻആശുപത്രികളിൽ പോകുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇത് കാര്യക്ഷമതയുടെ ഫലമായി ഗണിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളതല്ല.

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ഈ രാജ്യത്തു സാധുക്കളാണ് ഏററവും കൂടുതലായിട്ടുള്ളത്. അവരുടെ കുടിലുകളിൽ മിക്കവാറും ഒരു മുറിയേ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയുള്ളു. ഈ സ്ഥലത്തെയാണ് എല്ലാവരുടേയും പെരുമാററത്തിനും പ്രസവത്തിനും ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നത. ഇത് എത്രയോ നീചവും കഷ്ടവും ആണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. സാധുക്കളുടെ ഇടയിൽ കുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളുടെ മരണം കൂടിവരുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്. ഈ സങ്കടത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനും, സാധുക്കൾക്കു പ്രസവസംബന്ധമായി വരുന്ന ദുരിതങ്ങളെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായ പ്രസവമുറികൾ ഓരോ ആശുപത്രികളിലും പ്രത്യേകം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ടതിനു വേണ്ട വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

മറെറാരുസംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ആലപ്പുഴ മിസ്റ്റർ മഹമ്മദ്കുഞ്ഞിന്റെ രോഗം കാണാനായി പോയ കഥയെപ്പററി പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ വാസ്തവവിരുദ്ധമാണെന്നും അതിനെ ഞാൻ പിൻവലിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംഗതിയെപ്പററി ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ മഹമ്മദ്കുഞ്ഞിന്റെ ആളുകൾ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനെ ആലപ്പുഴ കൊണ്ടുപോയതോ, അവിടെ എത്തിയതിൽ പിന്നീട് മിസ്റ്റർ മഹമ്മദ്കുഞ്ഞിനെ കണ്ടതോ, അവിടെനിന്നും പണം വാങ്ങീട്ടുള്ളതോ, അവിടെനിന്നും അതേവാഹനത്തിൽ അമ്പലപ്പുഴ ആശുപത്രി പരിശോധിച്ചു മടങ്ങിയതോ, അതിലേക്കു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും സഞ്ചാരപ്പടി വാങ്ങിയതായി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതൊ, ഇതിൽ ഏതു ഭാഗമാണ് എനിക്കു തെററിപ്പോയതെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മറുപടിയിൽ പറയുന്നപക്ഷം ആ ഭാഗത്തെ പിൻവലിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു മാപ്പു ചോദിക്കുന്നതിനും ഞാൻ തയ്യാറാണ്.

ഞാൻ കേൾവിയെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന്റെ പേരിൽ ദോഷാരോപണം ചെയ്തതു തെററിപ്പോയി എന്ന് എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള എന്നെ ശാസിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹം വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചിക്കാതെ അങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞതിൽ ഞാൻ മനസ്താപപ്പെടുന്നു. എന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷനെ ആലപ്പുഴ കൊണ്ടുപോയ കഥ മാത്രമേ കേൾവിയെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളു. ലോകത്ത് കേൾവിയെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയാണ് പല കാര്യങ്ങളും അറിവാൻ ഇടയാകുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ അറിയ

ന്ന കാൎയ്യങ്ങളെ വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തി വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നപോലെ ഞാനും വിശ്വസിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. അതിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഭാഗം എനിക്കു തെറ്റിപ്പോയതായി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യൻ പറയുന്നതായാൽ അതിലേക്കു അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു മാപ്പു ചോദിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണെന്നു ഞാൻ സമ്മതിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്റെ ഈ സമാധാനംകൊണ്ട് മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. നാരായണപിള്ള സമാധാനപ്പെട്ടുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

വേറൊരു സംഗതികൂടി എന്റെ മറുപടിയിൽ പറയേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. പഴമ പരിചയമുള്ള നല്ല വക്കീലിനോ, നല്ല ഡാക്ടർക്കോ, കിട്ടാനുള്ള ഫീസിന്റെ തുക അവൎക്ക് നിശ്ചയിച്ചു വാങ്ങാൻ അവകാശമുണ്ടെന്നു ഡിപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡന്റു മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണയ്യങ്കാർ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളോടു സാധാരണയായി എനിക്കു വളരെ ബഹുമാനമാണെങ്കിലും, ഈ സംഗതിയിലുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് എനിക്ക് യോജിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു നല്ല വക്കീലിന് തോന്നിയപോലെ ഫീസ് ചോദിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. മെഡിക്കൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യനും ഒരാളായിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതുപോലെ ഫീസ് ചോദിക്കാൻ പാടുണ്ടെന്ന് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. "Consultation Practice" എന്നുള്ള നാമധേയത്തോടുകൂടി ജനങ്ങളോട് തോന്നിയമാതിരി വലുതായ സംഖ്യകൾ വാങ്ങുന്നത് ആ സ്ഥാനത്തിന് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിരിക്കുന്നതല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കരയാളർ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികൾക്കു മറുപടി പറയേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Durbar Physician*): Sir, so far as the comment about efficiency obtaining in the department is concerned, I believe Mr. Kumara Pillai and I are at one in so far as he explained that for the efficiency of the department or to attain something like efficiency, all measures that could be adopted are adopted. Particularly, attention is given to the poor and those that come to the hospitals. Hospitals are meant mainly for the poor and how far medical officers fall short of the ideals I cannot say.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): May I offer a word of personal explanation on the point?

മെഡിക്കൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഇത്തരം അവിഹിതമായ നടപടികളെപ്പറ്റി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷ്യന്റെ അറിവിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്നില്ലെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നു. ൻസ്റ-ൽ ഇരണിയൽ ടൌണിൽ ധാരാളം കാളറാ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ സ്പെഷ്യൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടിക്കായി ഒരു മെഡി

[Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan]

ക്കൽ ആഫീസറെ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആ മെഡിക്കൽആഫീസർ കാളറാസുഖക്കേടുകൾ നോക്കാൻപോകുന്നതിനു പടി വാങ്ങിയിരുന്ന വിവരത്തെപ്പററി അനേകം ആളുകൾ ഒപ്പിട്ട് ഡർബാർഫിസിഷന് ഹർജികൾ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ എന്റെ അടുത്ത ബന്ധുവായ ഒരാളിന് കാളറാസുഖക്കേടുണ്ടായതിനെ ചികിത്സിച്ചതിലേക്കു ബിൽ അയച്ചത് എന്റെ കൈയിൽ കിട്ടാൻ ഇടയായി. സ്പെഷ്യൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടിക്ക് അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മെഡിക്കൽആഫീസർ ജനങ്ങളോടു പണം വാങ്ങി വരുന്ന സംഗതിയെപ്പററി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ ഇരണിയൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ആ മെഡിക്കലാഫീസർ അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ബിൽ എന്റെ കൈയിൽ ഉള്ളതായി ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ അറിയുകയും അതിനെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് അയച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്രകാരം ഒരു എഴുത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ അയച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതിന് ഡർബാർഫിസിഷൻ എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി എന്നുള്ളത് അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): This is unfortunately the case of a man who belongs to the Ezhava caste. He said that he could not pull on very well with the high-caste people. But I may assure the member that he charged no extra fees or fees which are not usual.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Is it a regular fee ?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I asked for his explanation. I received it; but I could not come to a definite conclusion that he was in the wrong. However, I transferred him from that place.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): He was transferred from there only after two or three months.

PRESIDENT: After an enquiry was made.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): It took some time for the enquiry and then he was transferred.

As regards the wards for lying-in patients, I do not know whether Mr. Kumara Plllai is aware of the fact that Government are taking steps to provide all district hospitals with special wards for lying-in patients.

Another charge against the medical officers was that they charged heavy fees. He referred to the case of a poor woman in labour. But I must tell him that healthy public opinion must guide and control the medical officers. It is not possible for the Darbar Physician to know these things unless they are brought to his notice. It is public opinion that must guide and control these people.

Much has been said about my charging fees. I would like anybody in this House to cite any instance where I had declined to go and see a poor patient when he wanted my service, particularly in any hospital where he was admitted and where the diagnosis was difficult or the treatment was of a doubtful result. I ask for any single instance. I have been ever ready to attend upon all poor people requiring my services. I charge fees only for those who send for me to attend in their houses, and who could afford to pay me as well as the nurses.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Darbar Physician let me know whether the medical officers charge fees for those cases that go to the Sirkar hospitals for operations?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): No such case has come to my notice; but I may say there are some people who would like to be treated in hospitals because of the convenience obtaining there, and who privately arrange with the medical men that they would give money even for their being attended to in the hospitals, because they have no convenience in their own houses. Such cases have come to my notice; but the patients went to the hospitals of their own free will and pleasure. I have no cases brought to my notice where medical men insisted upon fees being paid for operations done in hospitals. There was a case where some such complaint was made; but it was afterwards withdrawn. That gentleman is in the House on my side.

MR. M. N PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Darbar Physician be good enough to issue a circular that no fees should be charged for operations performed in the Sirkar hospitals?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): No circular is necessary in the matter. It is the bounden duty of every man to attend to them in the hospitals.

PRESIDENT: I suppose the Medical Code lays it down.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But that is not being adhered to.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I could not follow, Sir.

PRESIDENT: He says that there are still cases in which medical officers charge fees for operations on patients brought to the hospitals; but that is more an assertion than a question.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Such instances have not been brought to my notice.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I want to know whether he could think of any means for preventing the subordinate officers from accepting or demanding more fees than are sanctioned by the rules.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): The member himself knows that there are rules for the guidance of the public regarding fees and he can take action accordingly.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): What I ask is whether there is any practical manner in which medical officers could be prevented from putting people to trouble for not giving them the very high fees which they demand.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Rules for guidance are published. I can say no further.

As for improving the efficiency of the out-patients' departments I quite agree with Mr. Kumara Pillai in some respects. It is impossible to correct the mentality of some medical officers. It must be remembered that the medical profession is not merely an honourable profession but it is something more. There ought to be a combined humaneness, love and philanthropy. If a man does not possess these softer qualities, I could not be found fault with. And it is not all men who possess these qualities in dealing with the sick and suffering. It is for the public to put up such men who are unsympathetic and hard towards the poor—to put them up and report. As to how far out-patients are treated adequately, that also is another phase of the same question. After all we are all human beings; we have our limitations. I have been myself charged just a little while ago with the allegation that, though I was taken for consultation, very few cases recovered. It must be remembered that a consultant is only taken in many cases where the patient is gasping and breathing his last. A consultant cannot conquer death; he can only do his best.

I want this House to remember that the Darbar Physician has always been prepared to render aid to the sick and suffering; that is his service. That is why he is attending hospitals; if there is anything he can do, he is prepared to do; more than that he cannot promise. If there is any instance any member can bring in which the Darbar Physician refused help to a patient who was in in a hospital or who is poor, I shall be glad to explain that.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): There is one point raised by Mr. Hoogewerf which I should like to answer if the President would allow me time.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): On the last occasion we met here in this Council, there was a discussion that the Darbar Physician ought not to have private practice and Mr. Hoogeweref was one of those who voted in favour of that. As the irony of fate would have it, I was called away from here to a distance of forty miles to treat a patient and perform a surgical operation—and I believe the only operation of the kind done in the State up to now with success. The patient was a relation of Mr. Hoogewerf; and when we returning in the car he told me "Dr. Lakshmanan, what would have happened had it not been for you?" (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion to a division, Mr. Kumara Pillai?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. അതുകൊണ്ടു സാധുക്കൾക്കു വല്ലതും രക്ഷ കിട്ടുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിൽ കൂടുതൽ പ്രതിഫലം എനിക്കാവശ്യമില്ല.

PRESIDENT: Are you withdrawing this motion?

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 359 to 363.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

359. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for purchase and repair of furniture by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

360. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for maintenance of X-ray engine and pumping plant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

361. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,050 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,050.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

362. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,09,536 for supplies, services and contingencies by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

363. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,74,109 for hospitals and dispensaries by Rs. 100.

Motion 364.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

364. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,74,100 for Hospitals and Dispensaries by Rs. 100.

My object is not to curtail expenditure under so useful and benevolent an item of public expenditure, but merely to point out the obstacles in the way of the expansion of medical relief and to show how the poor sick are deprived of the benefits that so liberal an allotment ought to ensure to them.

In the first place, there is a great scarcity of ordinary drugs in the medical institutions. Even though the Darbar Physician is prepared to say otherwise, I can say that it is a fact. I pointed out last year that the increased allotment for the purchase of drugs necessitated by the phenomenal rise in prices of drugs during the war was still being kept up in spite of the fact that normal pre-war conditions in relation to the cost of drugs have established themselves again. Although the head of the Medical Department seated at headquarters and paying flying annual visits to the numerous medical institutions does not hear about the paucity of

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drugs, those who move intimately with the people are painfully aware of this fact that most institutions are short of drugs. Interpellations addressed to Government by the members of this Council are evidence of the existence of a growing volume of genuine grievance in this matter. What is the chief function of the executive head of the Medical Department? It is the sympathetic, efficient and proper administration of the medical charities of the State. The department should cease to function, if its vital and absolutely unavoidable requirements are withheld. Without medicines, how can the hospitals and dispensaries be run? The budget demand has not been curtailed. The Government is very generous in sanctioning funds for the Medical Department. This Council has not withheld a pie out of the demand for the purchase of drugs. The budget demand should reflect an intelligent and reasonable forecast of the ordinary requirements of the coming year. The total number of patients treated in the hospitals has not shown an abnormal increase; why then should the supply of medicines run short and necessitate the issue of circulars, confidential or otherwise, urging the employment of substitutes and otherwise fettering the discretion of medical officers in the selection of drugs that may appear to them suitable for individual cases? In the absence of medicines, money spent on the salaries and allowances of medical officers becomes a waste. Sir, if this Council should be called upon to vote funds for the purchase of drugs, have they not the right to know how the funds sanctioned by them are being utilised by the head of the department?

Is the full and reasonable value for the money spent secured or is there anything in the method of purchase by which the full value is not secured? In this connection, I beg to point out that the Medical Department does not exist for the maintenance of law and order. It is not one of the executive departments where secrecy in regard to its operations may, for political, administrative or other reasons, be considered necessary. It is a spending department and exists for the distribution of medical relief. None of its operations need be hidden from the light of publicity. The continued and successive interpellations in this Council by a leading member has brought out the admission that a letter from Messrs. Ferris & Co., referring to transactions connected with the purchase of drugs has been received by Government and this mysterious letter contained statements connected with the purchase of drugs. Why should this letter touching a public transaction merely in reference to the purchase of drugs be hidden from this Council? Should this Council vote funds and should they be kept in the dark as to how the funds sanctioned are spent?

Sir, there is discontent that personal considerations largely influence the policy of the administration of the Medical Department under its present head. A recent instance is prominently before the public. An officer is recommended for promotion over the head of the deserving senior. Government rejected the recommendation and promoted the officer to whom the promotion was rightly due. Immediately thereafter,

the public are astounded by the news that a new appointment carrying a salary of Rs. 400—500 was created in the twinkling of the eye and the very officer who failed to get promotion was forthwith promoted to the newly created appointment with effect from the very same date on which the other was promoted by Government. This would seem a magical performance. I am not aware if an appointment newly created is ever given retrospective effect. In this case, was the necessity personal or public? Until this particular officer failed to get his promotion from Government, did any one think of creating a new surgeoncy? Is the defeat in this case for the Government or the Darbar Physician? It has certainly been disastrous to the general tax-payer.

Another point I wish to lay emphasis on is the arbitrary manner in which candidates are selected for study leave and lodging allowances in Europe. Private candidates are available in dozens who will obtain the required qualifications provided the department would only encourage them.

There is a lamentable dearth of qualified midwives and nurses. Unless Government medical officers are called in, the services of qualified midwives and nurses are not available. A large number of these should be trained and sent out for work among the people outside the medical institutions. The European nurses, ignorant of the language, customs and habits of the people should no more be imported. Accommodation for poor women in maternal labour should be amply provided for in all the medical institutions. They should be admitted in the hospitals and dieted before and after child-birth. Milk from a different continent (*laughter*) is still being imported for consumption of the sick in hospitals, although a protest was made against this practice last year. Boards of visitors should be appointed for the Leper and Lunatic Asylums. With these words, I move the reduction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): A word of personal explanation is necessary on what the Darbar Physician said just before he sat down. I am still indebted to Dr. Lakshmanan.

PRESIDENT: I do not hear what you say.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I repeat the same thing that I said before to Dr. Lakshmanann now also. But, it is an unholy thing for the head of the department to enter into competition with his subordinates because, it does not make for efficient administration, and it does not give him sufficient time to look into the matters of administration.

Sir, my sister-in-law was in a very serious condition and Dr. Lakshmanan attended on her. I had to take my wife for a similar complaint to Madras to Colonel Niblock, a well-known surgeon, for treatment. My point was that it was not a proper thing for the head of the department to enter into competition with his subordinates. If he is called by the head of any District or other hospital for assistance, by all means, he must go to his help, if the former is not able to deal with the case himself. The head of the department has a great deal to do with the

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administration of the department and private practice will not only take him away from this work but may have a demoralising effect.

Now, I come to the X-ray apparatus which has been rusting for two or three years in the General Hospital. (*Laughter.*) You must either put it in order or throw it on the scrap heap. One man on Rs. 15 is paid for doing nothing since the machine is not working. At present we have to go to Neyyur or Madras if we want to be X-rayed.

Another point is that maternity wards should be provided in every hospital. One of the members pointed out—I think it was Mr. Kumara Pillai—that in the Victoria Hospital a male doctor was working. Dr. Lakshmanan who, as I said before, is an eminent Physician, was in charge of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital. But it was removed from his charge; and Miss Watts and after her, Miss Kohloff were put in charge of the hospital. The principle was that male doctors should not be in charge of a hospital which is purely intended for women. I am sure, Sir, you know what the diseases of women are. (*Laughter.*) I do not think a *man* should find a place in that hospital. In spite of the principle recognised by Government, Dr. Lakshmanan sent a young Brahmin to be an assistant there, to gain, it would appear, practice in maternity. He was sent there to teach rather than to learn. He is a smart and nice-looking young man (*laughter*) who was the only male in the midst of a number of women. (*Laughter.*)

I wish to say a word about the Sisters of the Cross. I was very glad to hear that the entertainment of these holy women in the service was brought about by Dr. Lakshmanan.

PRESIDENT: You have got only one minute more.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): We want many more of them; they may be truly said to be ministering angels. Theirs is a labour of love and a duty to humanity. Lately, when Mother Emerita from Quilon was going to Europe, the whole of Quilon, irrespective of caste or creed, gave her a grand address and a purse as a token of their appreciation of her good work. We want more of these Sisters in more of our hospitals to attend to the sick and the dying.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, in supporting the motion before the House, I wish to say a few words. Some of the points which I wish to urge in this connection have been already referred to by my friend and I do not wish to dwell upon them at length, especially with respect to scarcity of medicine in the hospitals. It is a well-known fact, however much it may be denied, that, by the end of the year—I mean long before the year is out—medicines in the hospitals run out, and the medical officers in charge of the hospitals use to tell us that they have run out; and, if they are honest, they will also ask us to purchase them from outside. In regard to this, as has been pointed out, neither now nor at any time, so far as I know, has the Council

made any cut in the allotment demanded by the Darbar Physician for the purchase of medicines for the Medical Department. If what Mr. M. N. Pillai said was true, that is, if the allotment sanctioned during the war time is still kept up, the department must be in possession of very large funds for the purpose of purchasing medicines. In spite of these, if there is scarcity of medicine, it must be due to one of two causes; either there is a great leakage or the Darbar Physician is not asking for adequate grants in respect of medicines. In either case, it appears to me that the matter deserves looking into; and I hope the Darbar Physician will look into the matter. If, as a matter of fact, he has not been asking for adequate grants, I hope he will not fail to do so in the future.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is the increase in infantile mortality. It has been admitted by all that there is a large increase in the infantile mortality in the State. In commenting upon this, in the Administration Report for 1097, the Government attributed this to three causes, *viz.*, first, to the dearth of qualified midwives, secondly, to the absence of accommodation for maternity cases in the hospitals and thirdly, to ignorance. From what I have been able to learn from the report, I see that there has been no attempt made till now—at any rate, no *adequate* attempt is made—for the purpose of curing these defects. In regard to accommodation in hospitals, Dr. Lakshmanan has told us that he has been trying to provide some accommodation. But it appears to me grossly inadequate especially in respect of the poorer classes. Careful attention ought to be paid in the matter of increasing the accommodation in hospitals for maternity cases. You know that in this country most of the poor people live in single huts where there is very little accommodation for delivery. Unless we provide very large accommodation in the hospitals, they will be put to very great difficulties.

Then, in regard to midwives, I find from the Administration Report and the Statistics Volume that in 1097 there were 70,000 cases of child birth out of which only 5,000 were attended to by midwives. If this is so, I submit that it is a very grave state of affairs and requires remedying. The number of midwives available is only 61 or something like that. That certainly is a small number and every attempt should be made to increase their number and to make their services available to the ordinary poor classes. In regard to the nurses, I entirely endorse what has already been said. Recently, an instance came to my notice. I wanted the services of a nurse, and I requested the medical officer in the Quilon Hospital to send a nurse. That officer, besides being a personal friend of mine, is also a tenant of mine and would have obliged me if he could. But, on the other hand, he could not, and he said that he would send a warder as a substitute for the nurse. So I had to send for a nurse from Trivandrum for the purpose. That shows the state of affairs in regard to the number of nurses available in the State.

There is another matter which requires looking into. I heard recently that there was a proposal made by the Darbar Physician to treat the ordinary small-pox cases in the hospitals along with other

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patients. If that is so, I submit it is a very dangerous thing, especially in Travancore where vaccination is not compulsory above the age of ten. To treat these men in the hospitals along with other people --

PRESIDENT: I may tell you that there is no such proposal.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Then it is all right.

Another matter I wish to refer to in this connection is that the number of doctors for treating eye-diseases is very limited. Even the ordinary medical man knows something about this and will be fit to treat ordinary cases with some little training. If this is so, it is time to consider whether it could not be done by getting a few more people trained in Madras and posting them in the District Hospitals in the State.

I also submit that the number of hospitals in the State is not sufficient. In some taluks, we have got a hospital. In others, we have got only a dispensary. This distinction is invidious. Government should try as far as possible to provide a hospital in all the taluks of the State. Medical relief is one of the most important things that should demand the attention of Government; and I hope these matters will receive the careful consideration of Government.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Mr. M. N. Pillai has not made out a case with regard to shortage of drugs. He has merely made a statement that the quantity of drugs supplied to hospitals is scanty. No proof has been forthcoming. Till now, I have had no report from—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to ask whether Dr. Lakshmanan has not sent a circular to all the medical subordinates of the State that some substitutes should be prescribed when the proper drug is not available.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I would call the attention of the member to the circular, which has already been published in connection with the answer to an interpellation.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): What is the substitute for salol?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): What is the purpose for which salol is prescribed? The nature of the substitute depends upon the purpose for which it is prescribed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the purpose for which santonine is used?

PRESIDENT: He has not yet answered Mr. Kumara Pillai.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I would like to know for what purpose he wants to use salol. It may be used for different purposes in different cases.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): For typhoid cases.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): It is not every doctor that prescribes salol for typhoid cases. In the absence of salol, there are other disinfectants. Salol is used as an intestinal disinfectant. Carbolic acid and other carbolates are substitutes. It is from the very same source but only a different product. It is also a coal-tar product. Chlornie in the shape of mixture etc., is also used for the same purpose.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the substitute for santonine?

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Is it for his own personal information or for the Council?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is for the Council and not for my personal information. If it had been for my personal information, I would have gone to Dr. Lakshmanan.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Santonine is a very costly and expensive drug. There is another imported drug which I am using, *i. e.*, carbon tetrachloride which costs only one-twentieth of the price of santonine and is very effective in the place of santonine.

No case has been made out, because I have no report from any medical officer except one who said that *Pulve lutae seminae pond rosa* (കിച്ചുന്നമുക്കു) which I promised to supply had not arrived. The supply of santonine was getting out of stock. That powder was got from Calcutta recently. That is the only report I got till now. The supply that has been given will go on till the beginning of October; and the instruction given to the medical officers is that if any drug is falling short, due notice should be given and the quantity replenished long before the exhaustion of such supply; so that there may be no cry of dearth of medicine. He has not also mentioned what drugs have run short. Somewhere last year he said that the medicine *e g* was out of stock in the Women and Children's Hospital. It was absolutely incorrect.

He has asked the House why medical men from outside should not be sent for study in England. Study leave is a special privilege to officers in Government service. A person who has put in at least six years' service alone could be selected for higher studies and that is not meant for outsiders.

If nurses are not available for private people, the fault is not that of the Government. It is the private people that should make the nurses understand that nursing pays. It depends upon the way in which they patronise the nurses. Nurses have to attend on the patients in the hospitals. There is only a limited number of nurses for work in the hospitals. That is why the medical officers say they could spare only warders and not nurses. I daresay there will come a time when private demands will be fully met. It is only the day before yesterday that I had letters from

[Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.]

Madras and Mysore asking whether I could supply nurses. The training they get here seems to have made a very good impression outside. But I could not spare them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What about X-rays? Mr. Hoogewerf was very particular about it.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Unfortunately the House has to be given some information about the X-rays. The members are suffering under some misapprehension with regard to that department. It was originally got at a time when a man was sent out for training in X-ray work. He come back insufficiently trained. He trained another and went away. That man trained another man a little. What little that other man learnt was picked up by another man. So it went down to still another man who knows as much as a peon who is an attender in the X-ray Department. As regards the machine, it is not fit for work. It is positively dangerous to work that machine. To take an ordinary shadow of a bone which can be done in a couple of seconds, it takes half an hour; and if a person is to be exposed to X-rays for half an hour or one hour, it is positively dangerous. Such a machine ought to be condemned and thrown away rather than that a patient should be exposed to that machine. The power is not sufficient to work the machine. It is not in good order. Either it must be renovated or a new machine ought to be got down. It ought to be clearly understood that the X-ray by itself does not constitute entirely all electro-therapeutics. We want not merely X-ray but something more. There are several departments of electricity which will have to come in sooner or later. We ought to have a man thoroughly trained who has undergone a special course of training in electro-therapeutics, particularly a man who has a knowledge of physical science and then of medicine. A doctor is not expected to do X-ray work and has only to be an interpreter of the skiagraph.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Could it not be converted so as to produce light enough for the use of the General Hospital? (*Laughter.*)

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I consulted an expert who told me that it would cost Rs. 1,000 to enable it to produce sufficient power for lighting the hospital partly at least. Sooner or later, the equipment will be so managed that it will not only work the X-ray Department but also light the hospital.

I have nothing to say about infantile mortality, because it does not come within my sphere. As regards qualified midwives, certainly there should be more midwives seeking maternity work voluntarily and going about as health visitors and advising pregnant women. That state of affairs will come only when we have got a large number of midwives, both paid and unpaid. Government have already taken steps to provide maternity wards in Mavelikara, Nagercoil and Kottayam. These

ospitals have got special rooms for the present; and during the course this year, these hospitals, it is expected, will have the wards put up.

As regards eye diseases, the ordinary diseases come within the province of every medical man for treatment. In order to treat eye diseases of all sorts, there is an Ophthalmic Hospital at the headquarters. have been taking steps to train men under the able hand who is in charge of the Ophthalmic Hospital, and there is already a graduate who has been working under him as an assistant for the last four months. s soon as he has done enough work, another man will be sent to the eadquarters to learn the work. There is no necessity for our medical ien being sent to Madras for learning work. We have enough facilities here and a man who knows sufficiently well to teach in regard to ye diseases.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I have only a few words to peak. I am not at all satisfied with the explanation given by r. Lakshmanan. I do not know whether my brother members are atisfied or not. About the shortage of drugs in the hospital, we cannot et any official information. We can get only private information. 'hat the supply of medicines, lint and cotton is all short for about two three months every year, is a fact; and I know myself several patients oing for drugs to several private chemists' shops with instructions not give out that the prescription is from the hospital. I may not be ble to prove it officially. There is shortage of drugs.

Then, as regards nurses, it is the duty of the Government and the Darbar Physician to open classes for training nurses in large numbers. Ir. K. Paramesvaran Pillai pointed out that he could not get the services of a nurse from the Quilon Hospital and that he had to take one rom Trivandrum. If a class is opened in Trivandrum, there will be many candidates from different parts of the country to study nursing. t is the duty of the Darbar Physician to open nursing classes for training and not to blame the public.

As regards the out-patient department, I have to make a uggestion. It is impossible for a medical man to attend to 200 r 300 patients that go to the hospital in the morning hours; nd it is absolutely necessary to examine each man minutely and prescribe medicine and this will take at least 5 to 6 minutes in each case. t is physically impossible for a medical man to attend to all the patients. o, what I suggest is to have two men—one to write down the prescriptions and another to examine the patients and diagnose diseases. Now, mostly poor patients flock to the hospitals. If they are not attended to, it s a very painful thing. And so much money spent on hospitals is a waste of public money.

Another point I have to refer to is the grant of study leave. Why hould Government spend so much money for these medical men? They make a lot of money out of private practice. They are afterwards sent at Government cost to England for higher studies. They enjoy life there. (*Laughter.*) Some of them may come out successful and others may

[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

fail. There will be many applicants who may be willing to go for further studies at their own cost.

PRESIDENT: They need not apply if they want to go at their own cost.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I protest against any money being spent by Government on this account. If any medical officer wants to go for higher studies, he must take some other kind of leave and go and study at his own cost.

As regards the X-ray apparatus, Dr. Lakshmanan said it was useless. What is he going to do with it? Who got it down? It ought to have been got down with some purpose. If we cannot utilise it, I do not know whose fault it is. Of course, it is the duty of the Darbar Physician to see that it is worked; and he says that it is useless and ought to be auctioned or destroyed. It is a very sorrowful thing to hear him say that it is useless. I know two or three men who were specially trained in X-ray work and who were sent away after two months.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): I wish to know who those two or three men were.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mr. Lakshmana Aiyar was one.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): That is one. You said two or three.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mr. Moriera was another.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Dr. Moreira had no training anywhere.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then I think it is the fault of the Darbar Physician. It was for the Darbar Physician to recommend to Government to send men for training in X-ray work.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): The Darbar Physician took steps in the matter two years ago. He had carried on correspondence for the training by turns of at least two men at Dehra Dun so that we may always have at least one man ready as we have to give frequent relief to these X-ray operators. To post the same man always for X-ray work is murderous, and it is therefore the duty of the Darbar Physician to have at least two or three trained men.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If it is for the benefit of suffering humanity, nobody will grudge. It is the duty of the Darbar Physician, I think, to work it.

As regards the operations conducted in the hospitals, I know, as a matter of fact, that the doctors enter into a contract before they agree to perform the operation. I have seen—and I know from my own personal experience—that they make a contract before performing the

operation. This is a very bad state of affairs. I think the hospitals are mainly meant for poor people. There should be no difference whatever between the rich and the poor as regards treatment in the State hospitals. Every man who goes there should be attended to without any remuneration, whether he be rich or poor. I think it is high time that the Darbar Physician takes strong measures to stop this system of doctors taking remuneration from poor patients. If the rich men are prepared to give, let the doctors receive; but in the case of poor people, particular care should be taken to see that they are given better treatment without any cost. With these words, I withdraw my motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: It is now 5 o'clock, and under Rule 49 (3), I have to place before the House all the outstanding Demands. I shall first put the Demand for the Medical Department.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·20 lakhs be granted under Demand XV—Medical Department.

The grant was made.

Motions 365 to 454.

The following motions lapsed on account of expiry of the time allotted for the voting of Demands:—

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

365. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,140 for midwifery and nursing classes by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

366. To omit the allotment of Rs. 21,257, for grants to European Medical Institutions.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

367. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,700 for grants for medical purposes by Rs. 3,687.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

368. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,700 for grants for medical purposes by Rs. 10.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

369. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·20 lakhs under Demand XV by Rs. 1,00,000.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

370. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·20 lakhs by Rs. 100.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

371. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·20 lakhs by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

372. To omit the allotment of Rs. 500 for publication of rare books on Ayurveda.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

373. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for publication of rare books on Ayurveda by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

374. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,738 for Direction by Rs. 100.

[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

375. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,500 for purchase of medicines from the Pharmacy by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

376 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,427 for Ayurveda Pharmacy by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

377. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,571 for the Ayurveda Department by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

378. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 69,881 for Sanitary Circle Officers by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI :

379. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,368 for Sanitation and Vaccination by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

380. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,580 for Assistant Storekeepers by Rs. 790.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

381. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,284 for packers, etc., by Rs. 284.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

382. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,518 for establishment by Rs. 1,600.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

383. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,07,000 for cost of stationery for public departments by Rs. 17,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

384. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

385. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for office expenses.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

386. To omit the allotment of Rs. 90 for hot weather charges.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

387. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,73,900 for stationery by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :

388. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,73,900 for stationery by Rs. 1.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

389. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,202 for reading department by Rs. 2,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

390. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for overtime allowance for temporary piece-work establishment by Rs. 600.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

391. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 71,204 for establishment by Rs. 6,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

392. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,500 for purchase of stores and chemicals by Rs. 1,500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

393. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for purchase of plant by Rs. 11,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

394. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

395. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

396. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 400 for office expenses by Rs. 200.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

397. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,698 for pay of menials by Rs. 698.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

398. To omit the allotment of Rs. 705 for Chief Foreman.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

399. To omit the allotment of Rs. 540 for store-keepers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

400. To omit the allotment of Rs. 540 for supernumeraries.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

401. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for stores and chemicals.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

402. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of plant.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

403. To omit the allotment of Rs. 50 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

404. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. M. N. PILLAI :

405. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,06,261 for printing by Rs. 6,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

406. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,06,261 for printing by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :

407. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2·80 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 1,00,000.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

408. To reduce the total allotment of 2·80 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 83,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

409. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 37,179 for Museum and Public Gardens by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

410. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :

411. To omit the allotment of Rs. 310 for photographer.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :

412. To omit the allotment of Rs. 75 for purchase of photographic materials.

[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

413. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,100 for Pandits and Assistant Pandits by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

414. To omit the allotment of Rs. 800 for collection of rare manuscripts.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

415. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for publication of Malayalam and Tamil manuscripts.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

416. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,700 for preservation of Oriental Literature by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

417. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,275 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Rs. 100.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

418. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,275 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

419. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,800 for Development Board by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

420. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,800 for Development Board by Rs. 1.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

421. To omit items of works Nos. 25, 26, 28, 42, 44, 46, 71, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 178, 179, 180, 181 182 and 183.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

422. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for item of work No. 20 by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

423. To omit items of work Nos. 59, 60, 64, 71, 86, 120, 121, 146, 149, 231 and 392.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

424. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 500.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

425. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 10.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

426. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,147, for Direction by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI.

427. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 70,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 10.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

428. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,200,160 for buildings (original works) by Rs 13,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

429. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 4,35760 for buildings by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

430. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,80,820 for communications (original works) by Rs. 5,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI.

431. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,20,680 for maintenance or annual repairs by Rs. 10.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

432. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,01,500 for communications by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

433. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 13,01,500 for communications by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

434. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,160 for miscellaneous public improvements (original works) by Rs. 1,590.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

435. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 85,680 for miscellaneous public improvements by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR.

436. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 50,280 for reserve by Rs. 40,000.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY:

437. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 21,36,388 for Executive by Rs. 100

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

438. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 21,64,435 for buildings, communications and miscellaneous public improvements by Rs. 200.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

439. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 21,64,435 for buildings, communications, and miscellaneous public improvements by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

440. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 29,300 for establishment by Rs. 9,300.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

441. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,47,300 for Protective Irrigation by Rs. 2,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

442. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,47,300 for Protective Irrigation by Rs. 100.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

443. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 24·45 lakhs under Demand XX by Rs. 100.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

444. To omit the allotment of Rs. 165 for local allowance to an Inspector.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

445. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,75,218 for establishment by Rs. 2,330.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

446. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,53,360 for working expenses by Rs. 50,000.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR:

447. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,53,360 for working expenses by Rs. 39,100.

[President.]

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI :

448. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3·53 lakhs under Demand XXI by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

449. To omit the allotment of Rs. 50,000 for Madras and other exhibitions.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

450. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for expenditure under the Weights and Measures Regulation by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR :

451. To omit the allotment of Rs. 315 for Travancore Soldiers' Committee.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI :

452. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·89 lakh under Demand XXII by Rs. 10.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

453. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1 lakh under Demand XXII by Rs. 10.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR :

454. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1 lakh under Demand XXIII by Re. 1.

DEMAND XVI.—CHEMICAL EXAMINER, ETC.

PRESIDENT : The question is that a sum of Rs. 1.37 lakhs be granted under Demand XVI—Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda, and Sanitation.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVII—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

PRESIDENT : The question is that a sum of Rs. 2.80 lakhs be granted under Demand XVII—Stationery and Printing.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I oppose the Demand.

PRESIDENT : Then I shall put it to the vote.

The demand was put to the vote and carried, 27 voting *for* and 8 *against*.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

PRESIDENT : The question is that a sum of Rs. ·43 lakh be granted under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

PRESIDENT : The question is that a sum of Rs. ·58 lakh be granted under Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments

The grant was made.

DEMAND XX—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 24·45 lakhs be granted under Demand XX—Public Works Department.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—ANCHAL DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 3.53 lakhs be granted under Demand XXI—Anchal Department.

The grant was made.

DEMAMD XXII—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. ·89 lakh be granted under Demand XXII—Miscellaneous Items.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I oppose the motion.

The demand was put to the vote and carried, 27 voting *for* and 5 *against*.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIII—LOANS.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1 lakh be granted under Demand XXIV—Loans—Agricultural Loans.

The grant was made.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND IX—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAT ETC.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 6,000 under Demand IX—General Administration—Secretariat etc. This is for the payment of travelling allowance to the non-official members of the Legislative Council, for which the present allotment is found to be insufficient.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted as a supplementary grant under Demand IX—General Administration—Secretariat etc.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XII—EDUCATION.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 for the Department of Education to supplement the allotment of Rs. 5,000 provided in the budget estimate for 1099, for the Travancore University Committee. It will be remembered that, some months ago, a sum of Rs. 10,000 was

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

sanctioned for the Travancore University Committee for the year 1098. The work that has been done by that Committee so far has involved an expenditure of roughly Rs. 4,000, and the remaining Rs. 6,000 will inevitably lapse. In the budget of 1099, an estimate of Rs. 5,000 has been provided. But it is considered that it will be far from sufficient for the purpose. The Convener of the University Commitee has sent a statement in which he says that it will be quite insufficient since, as at present foreseen, we shall be fortunate if the report is ready by January next. The establishment charges and travelling allowance may alone come to Rs. 5,000, leaving practically no margin for contingent expenditure. Besides, we have to pay honoraria to two of the members. I do not think that a further grant of Rs. 5,000 is too much under the circumstances. A sum of Rs. 4,000 has already been spent within the first two months and no less than Rs. 10,000 more will be required for the completion of the work. I therefore request the sanction of the Council for this grant.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,000 be sanctioned under Demand XII—Education Department.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIV—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

DEWAN BAHADUR DR. P. N. LAKSHMANAN (*Darbar Physician*): Sir, there is a supplementary demand standing in my name; but I do not propose to move for the grant because I hope to be able to meet the expenditure by re-adjustment.

THE NAIR REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, with your permission, I beg to make a motion, as perhaps, I may be quite out of order unless you permit me. I want to move for the addition of two members to the Select Committee that has been asked to sit and consider the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill.

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. A. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran who has been co-opted as a member was sworn in only at this session. Therefore he has to be included in the Select Committee. Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar's name, owing to some inadvertence or mistake, was omitted last time. I therefore beg to move that these two gentlemen be added as members of the Select Committee appointed for cosideration of the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I second the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I oppose the motion.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The House has no notice of this motion. So I also oppose the motion.

PRESIDENT: It is true that there was no notice; but it is such a simple matter. It is only an addition of two members to the committee.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The committee is already very large and over-represented, and I do not see any reason why it should be further increased.

PRESIDENT: The Bill is a very important one and hence the large size of the committee.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I further point out that this is a non-official measure; and no non-official business has been set down for being carried on in this House this time. The motion is absolutely out of order.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): With the permission of the President, any motion can be brought before the House. That it is a non-official bill does not necessarily mean that the motion for addition of members to the Select Committee should be moved by the mover of the bill, because any one can move for the purpose, whether he is a non-official member or not.

The other reason that prompted me to do it was that, as Mr. Raja Raja Varma has been co-opted for the consideration of this particular bill, it is in fairness to the House and to him that he should be added as a member to the Select Committee, so that we may have the benefit of his views and of his mature judgment. It is for this purpose that I wanted to include him.

As for Mr. Krishna Aiyar, he sent up a bill for amending the Nair Regulation. When Mr. Raman Pillai read a long list of names of members to the Select Committee, I thought his name was there. It was therefore that I thought it would be better to have the names of these two gentlemen added to the Select Committee. I did not think the Council would raise serious objection to it. This is a measure of great importance and the whole House may even go into committee on it; and so we can well afford to have these gentlemen also on the committee.

As regards the point that no non-official business has been set down for this meeting, whether official business or non-official business is posted, I said at the very outset that I might be out of order and it was therefore that I got the permission of the President to make the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I am not at all against appointing these two gentlemen also as members of the Select Committee. I am also for giving as much representation in that committee as possible; but in this matter there is a technical difficulty. This meeting of the Council has been convened only for the purpose of discussing and passing the budget; and Mr. Udaya Varma Raja, who has been made member for the purpose of the Nair Regulation Amendment Bill, has not been given notice to come to this meeting; so that if we do any business connected with that bill, it is absolutely necessary that all the members of the Council, so far as that bill is concerned,

[President.]

should be given due notice of this meeting and of this motion. That does not appear to have been done. For this reason, I oppose Mr. Subba Aiyar's motion.

PRESIDENT: Is it true that no such notice has been given?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*). No notice has been given.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I thought, if the majority of the members of the Council were agreed, there would be no serious objection. Seeing that the motion has been objected to, I do not press it now. I shall wait till the next meeting of the Council.

I shall now withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT. Gentlemen, this session of the Council will be now prorogued. All interpellations which have not been answered will lapse; and members will have to give fresh notice of such interpellations as have not been answered and for which they still require answers. They are not, as will be seen from the number of interpellations answered, many. All resolutions sent up for this session will have also to be repeated.

The non-official members of the House will now proceed under the presidency of the Deputy President to make the elections which I announced this morning.

The Council adjourned at 5-15 P. M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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